

MARS MAY HAVE HAD
SUBTERRANEAN WATER.

SCIENCE & TECH, B8

Meet Kevin Clash, the
puppeteer behind Elmo,
at a Q&A.
YOUR WEEKEND, B2

the johns hopkins News-Letter

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Council proposes end to covered grades policy

By LILY NEWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

This is the first in a two-part series on the status of the covered grade policy at Hopkins.

The Academic Council has recommended that Hopkins repeal its long-standing first semester grading policy, generally referred to as "covered grades." According to their public minutes, the Council reached this decision last summer on June 8, with all 12 voting members present, either in-person or via conference phone.

The minutes read, "The following motion was approved: Eliminate the current covered grades policy for first semester freshmen effective July 1, 2014, thus

freshmen entering in the fall of 2014 will be graded using the conventional grading method that applies to all other students at that time."

The final decision on the covered grades policy rests with University President Ronald Daniels.

"I think the reason why you haven't heard anything from the President on it [thus far] is that he understands what a difficult issue it is," Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Andrew Douglas, said.

The following motion was approved: Eliminate the current covered grades policy for first semester freshmen . . .
— Academic Council Public Minutes.

has struggled with the issue of covered grades for many years, and has created various subcommittees to investigate the matter and make recommendations. In any of the

SEE GRADES, PAGE A7

Course evaluations digitized, incentivized

By JUSTIN LI
News & Features Editor

A new online course evaluation policy and procedure will be implemented for the Fall 2011 semester.

Students will be required to complete the evaluations in order to receive timely access to their final grades. For

the Fall 2011 semester, students that do not complete the evaluations by December 30, 2011 will not receive access to their grades until after January 15, 2012. Students can expect to receive e-mails by Nov. 21 linking them to the course evaluation surveys, according to an e-mail sent by the Uni-

versity Wednesday evening.

"We're trying to encourage [the completion of course evaluations]," Edward Scheinerman, Vice Dean for Education in the Whiting School of Engineering, said. "If we didn't do some sort of incentive that was pretty clear . . .

SEE EVALUATIONS, PAGE A7

By EVAN BROOKER and
JULES SZANTON
Staff Writers

Protesters interrupted the Milton S. Eisenhower

Symposium featuring Karl Rove, former Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush, with heckling and political chants last Tuesday evening.

Hopkins security personnel had to remove as many as 15 people from the venue, at least one of whom was a Hopkins undergraduate.

"MSE is proud, not only of being part of the Hopkins community, but of the Baltimore community. We demonstrated that last night. We could have shut the event off to the community. I was proud of how respectful the Hopkins students

were even if they disagreed with what Rove was saying," MSE co-chair, senior Jonathan Kornblau, said.

The first time Rove was interrupted, a protester yelled "mic check" and the rest of the protesters shouted in unison: "Karl Rove is the architect of

Occupy Iraq, is the architect of Occupy Afghanistan."

"If you believe in free speech . . . then you demonstrate it by shutting up and waiting until the questions and answers session," Rove said to the protesters.

SEE ROVE, PAGE A8

Tire slashing spree disrupts Charles Village

By NASH JENKINS
Senior Staff Writer

An unidentified culprit or group slashed the tires of four cars parked six blocks east of Homewood Apartments and Wyman Park on Sunday and Monday nights, according to Rebecca Reiser, a graduate student in the School of Education.

"Tonight there were approximately 4 cars with tires slashed on the corner of 30th and Guilford. This is apparently the second night in a row that tires have been slashed by (apparently) kids," Reiser wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter* this past Monday.

"Baltimore city police were informed but unfortunately have not acted as of yet."

Currently, the situation appears to remain unresolved. When contacted by *The News-Letter*, the

Northern District Office of Baltimore City Police failed to provide information on the incident or reports thereof.

Hopkins Campus Safety and Security was not notified of the incident, though the force does patrol on East 30th Street and Guilford Avenue.

"Campus Safety and Security has received no complaints regarding punctured [or] slashed tires within the past week," Lieutenant Mark Long stated in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The street corner on which the incidents occurred is a stop on the weekly route of Campus Safety and Security's Hopkins Neighborhood Walk program. The program received attention last week when a student on the patrol reported suspicious activity which led to the arrest of a wanted burglar.



OLIVIA BERMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Students and faculty converged on the Atrium to participate in a video expressing the University's thanks for philanthropic donations.

Hopkins flash mob dances for donor appreciation video

By NASH JENKINS
Senior Staff Writer

Continuing a three-year trend of creating videos as a means of thanking University donors, Hopkins's Communications and Marketing Divisions staged and filmed a forty-person flash mob in

Gilman Hall last Tuesday afternoon.

The Alumni Association will release the video in the spring. It will feature a, "Hopkins-ized" version of the Sly and the Family Stone classic "Thank You for Letting Me Be Myself Again," Kate Pipkin, Director of Communications

and Marketing for the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, wrote in an e-mail. The message was sent to the University community, soliciting participants.

"Dancing skills are not required, though they are a plus," Pipkin wrote in the message.

Approximately forty students showed up in the Atrium for the event. There, the participants followed a choreographed routine to the funk hit, whose title and lyrics capture the ethos of the forthcoming video: gratitude to alumni donors

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NEWS & FEATURES



COURTESY OF KATHERINE SIMEON
A group of girls collaborate on their project design to help disaster relief.

Ready Set Design! exposes young girls to engineering

By KATHERINE SIMEON
News & Features Editor

The Great Hall in Levering was filled with laughter, smiles and chatter as 43 girls ran around with paper, cardboard, sticks and glue for their projects this past Saturday. The girls were exploring engineering at a program hosted by Hopkins's Ready Set Design!

Ready Set Design! is devoted to showing middle school girls what engineering is about and how it could be a fun potential career option.

"We found that even though more than 50 percent of college students are women ... only one third are actually in engineering. So Ready Set Design! is trying to encourage more girls to go into engineering," junior Allison Tse, vice president of Ready Set Design! and a mechanical engineering major, said. "We think that they kind of get discouraged because it's a very technical field, and there aren't a lot of women in engineering right now. They don't see a lot of role models, so they don't really think of introducing it to them."

Ready Set Design! hosts two events per semester that revolve around the same theme. The girls in attendance were split into several groups that design a project related to the theme and make prototype models.

This year's theme was "Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Oh My!" The projects the girls worked on tried to help disaster relief.

"We like to keep the theme consistent with things they might be talking about in school, what they might be talking about within their homes," Rachel Sangree, faculty advisor of Ready Set Design! said. "And of course, tsunamis and earthquakes and hurricanes we've all been discussing with our children, so it seemed very relevant and possibly maybe... they've seen damage caused these natural disasters on television or in the news."

Sangree was a graduate student studying civil engineering when she started as a volunteer for Ready Set Design! six years ago, in 2005, when it was founded by Professor Lester Su, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

From building tsunami-sustainable hospitals to designing baby strollers than can move smoothly along uneven terrain, the girls were busy at work. The middle school students came up with their own ideas and executed them. By the end of the day, they had a finished product, a prototype of their designs.

"[I like] interacting with the girls because they actually have a lot of good ideas and I'm always impressed by what they are able to contribute. It's really nice to just kind of be able to mentor them," Tse said.

The program is welcome to all middle school girls in the area. Many come from the towns surrounding Baltimore and sometimes cross state borders from Virginia. The program proves to be successful with parents continuing to send their younger children, after their older siblings participated in past years. Members are both undergraduate and graduate engineering students, and female engineering students are paired up with each girl as a mentor for the day.

"We pair the girls up with female engineering students... so that they can not only get some guidance from them as they are going along in their design, they can also just see that women are choosing engineering as a career path," Sangree said.

Ready Set Design! provides an noncompetitive, interactive, hands-on experience specifically targeted to middle school girls. Members of Ready Set Design! believe that this is a crucial age so that these young girls can start planning for a career in engineering early on.

"[We do this] by introducing [engineering] to them early on, so that they can prepare, start taking math and science classes in high school, just to show them that engineering is fun," Tse said.

Middle school is a time when students look for guidance and may seriously consider engineering with a fresh mind.

"It's a profession that is often a little bit mysterious," Sangree said. "I think they don't know exactly what engineers do. Middle school is also a time when you're not thinking about what you are going to do for the rest of your life, but you are sort of deciding, in a way, whether you are going to like math and science or not. So introducing, through this experience, different types of engineering and how engineers design, how the design process works."

Tse noted that she discovered she liked engineering later in her academic career, and programs like this can help girls like her pursue their interests earlier.

"That's part of the reason I kind of want to do this type of program. I wasn't exposed to engineering when I was in high school," she said.

Sangree sees the usefulness of the program from a parent's perspective. She sees girls' lack of knowledge about engineering in her own daughter.

"I did not know what an engineer was, what an engineer did," Sangree said. "When I welcome the students, I tell the silly, very very one line story about my daughter, where she has two engineers as parents, but she thinks I go and drive a train everyday... so that's what kids think an engineer is."

By RACHEL WITKIN
Managing Editor

Hopkins held its first Ignite@JHU event at Nolan's Student Lounge last Thursday night. Gathering an audience of 150 students, Ignite is an event in which speakers have only five minutes and 20 slides to present a topic. The event was hosted by the Digital Media Center (DMC) and Charles Commons Connections.

The rapid fire nature of the Ignite event was first conceived in 2006 in Seattle, Washington by O'Reilly Press and was organized by Hopkins alumni Patty Chen and a group of friends. Ignite soon spread to cities throughout the world, including at the Walters Art Museum, where it has been held for five years. Through this event, people are able to share their ideas and interests through an open-mic format. Digital Media Center Director Joan Freedman decided to bring Ignite to Hopkins after her daughter participated in one, speaking about teen activism.

"I thought, 'wouldn't it be great for the Hopkins students to enjoy doing something like this,'" she said.

Last March, Freedman brought the concept to Craig Rosenblum, who is currently the Assistant Coordinator of Campus Programming and Coordinator of Nolan's on 33rd Student Lounge. She wanted to collaborate with Charles Common Connections, where Rosenblum was a graduate assistant last year, to help recruit staff members for the event.

"[Freedman] was very clear when she came up with this idea of not exclusively allowing students to present it and allow for faculty and staff members as well that we [wouldn't] necessarily have the opportunity to learn what they're really passionate about," Rosenblum said. He also emceed the event.

Freedman wanted to bring this event to Hopkins so that students could learn about the diverse interests of not only each other, but of staff and faculty as well.

"The goal of the event is to get people comfortable in their speaking, [so that] people can share their passions, their interests," she said. "It's a great way to sort of network and to find ... people that are interested in similar topics."

There were 12 speakers in total, presenting on topics with a diverse range, such as the \$2/Day Challenge, the European Union (EU) Swimming Invitational, juggling and human trafficking.

Seniors Nikki Jiam and Anita Ram, who started the \$2/Day Challenge at Hopkins, decided to participate after a public health advisor told them about Ignite@JHU. They thought it would be a great way to share their project with others. In their 20 slides, they first spoke about the issue of homelessness and then went on to explain what actually happened at the \$2/Day Challenge.

"I thought they were incredibly articulate and they felt very comfortable on stage," Freedman said. "[They] looked like they were having a good time [and] they clearly enjoyed talking about what was important to them."

Jiam and Ram both enjoyed hearing the other speakers talk about their projects, especially because it was in a five-minute format.

"I thought [the talks] were fascinating," Jiam said. "I honestly wouldn't have attended any of those

talks if they were on Today's Announcements ... because it's like an hour, and it usually goes over your head, but I think Ignite@JHU made it accessible and quick to the point."

Associate Director of International Studies Julia Galan decided to participate in the event because she wanted to share the work she had done outside of the Hopkins environment in creating the EU Swimming Invitational.

"I thought it was a great idea to have five minutes to talk about something that you've done which has impacted the world in a way," she said.

Galan thought that Ignite@JHU went very well and hopes that more students will want to participate at future events.

"I hope they were motivated by these faculty, students and administrators who are doing unique things outside of their professions," she said. "I also hope that they'll be motivated to present and feel that what they are doing is unique because many people do things beyond academics that are really interesting ... each project is unique, regardless of whether it's on the world level or just here at Homewood."

Senior Yera Jeong, who attended the event to hear a friend speak, appreciated the variety of the topics presented. "I



COURTESY OF PETER GALAN
Craig Rosenblum(left) and Julia Galan(right) were a part of Hopkins first Ignite event.

thought it was actually a good idea," she said. "It was short, [so] it [didn't] get boring."

Ram enjoyed hearing about subjects that she had not previously studied or thought about.

"I think it was a good idea to be exposed to subjects that I wouldn't otherwise think about or attend," she said.

Since this was Hopkins's first Ignite event, the staff, including Freedman, Rosenblum and Mike Yassa, the faculty-in-residence at Charles Commons, did most of the planning. They reached out to people that they knew to try to recruit speakers.

"Most of the people who presented came through personal networks," Freedman said. "I think that's because it was a new concept on campus, people didn't quite know what it was about ...

the reality is that it's not that hard, anyone can stand up there for five minutes."

Freedman would like to help students get more involved in the planning process for future Ignite events, including the second Ignite@JHU, which is going to be held in March. She would like for students, staff and faculty members to send the DMC proposals for their five-minute talks.

"The DMC actually was really primarily interested in doing this because we really are about helping students communicate their ideas, whether their academic ideas or their personal interests ... so ultimately I'd like to be able to work with all the students who become Ignite presenters to really do a great job at developing their elevator pitch or their five minute presentation," Freedman said.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Momentum brings professors to engage students in eclectic talks

By NASH JENKINS
Senior Staff Writer

Five Hopkins professors gathered before an audience of dozens in Gilman Hall on Wednesday night to individually present topics of passion within their respective fields. The event marked the inaugural session of *Momentum: Ideas in Motion*, a to-be-annual lecture series described by sophomore Leela Chakravarti, its chairwoman, as a forum for "[professors'] most engaging thoughts and ideas."

The event is the brainchild of the *Hopkins Undergraduate Research Journal* and an offshoot of the Office of the Dean of Student Life. Staff from both styled *Momentum* in a fashion similar to that of the TED lecture series, an eclectic cabinet of speakers presenting, according to TED's mission statement, "ideas worth spreading."

The professors selected to speak hailed from an array of departments and fields — particle physics, musicology, philosophy, biology, and film — linked by little more than, according to the *Momentum* manifesto, paralleled ardor in their respective domains.

"[We] started [*Momentum*] with the hope of encouraging students to pursue their own passions," Chakravarti said in her introductory remarks.

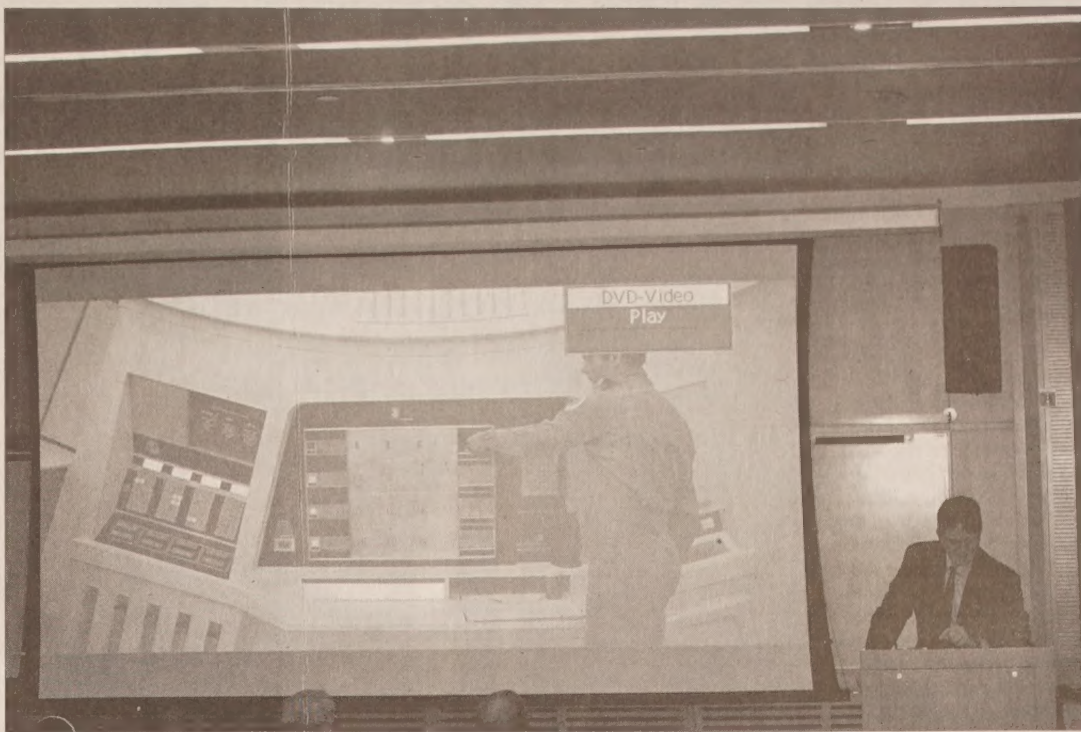
The night commenced with a presentation in particle physics delivered by Bruce Barnett, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. In the three decades since he arrived at Hopkins, Barnett has served as Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman of the department and amassing accolades like the Maryland Association of Higher Education's Outstanding Faculty Award in 2007.

For his presentation, Barnett outlined the basic principles of dark matter, employing vehement hand gestures, diagrams and remarks that proved straightforward but punchy.

"Dark matter is in this room," he said, gesturing out over the audience. "It doesn't interact with our daily lives. You can't make a mousetrap out of it, but it exists."

Andrew Talle succeeded Barnett's lecture with a presentation of a science not physical, but tonal. Talle, who teaches musicology at Hopkins' Peabody Institute, spoke on the role of improvisation in music education, emphasizing the necessity of the irrational. His presentation proved lighthearted but informative. He cut the laughter that followed his jokes with recordings of a student improvising a Bach piano melody.

Hopkins biologist Mi-



CATHERINE GUENTHER/PHOTOGRAPHER STAFF

Marc Lapadula finished off the evening by discussing contemporary cinema's use of modern technology, as exemplified by *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

chael Edidin followed Talle's presentation. Edidin's role at Hopkins is multifaceted; he serves as an adjunct professor in both the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions' Department of Pathology and the Whiting School of Engineering's Department of Material Science. His topic of discussion on Wednesday evening, however, was narrow and, for many in

the audience, initially trivial: human excrement.

"Biologists talk about a lot of gross and disgusting things without realizing they're gross and disgusting," he said, grinning. "I'm guilty of it."

But all was not potty talk. Edidin expounded on the complex relationship between intestinal bacteria and human genetics, promising therein "great

potential" for medical and scientific advancement and discovery.

Leaving the stage to wrinkled noses but raucous applause, Edidin preceded Laura Papish, a visiting assistant professor of philosophy whose intellectual pursuits range from Kantian ethical theory to the philosophical merits of sex. For her talk, she doted on a topic particu-

larly relevant to the supposed "cutthroat" culture of Hopkins: the role of luck in accomplishments.

"Respect, money, success. Much of that... comes from circumstances beyond our control — that's luck," Papish said, channeling an argument from the school of luck egalitarianism, an idea first pitched by philosopher John Rawls in the 1970s.

"The ability to work hard is itself a gift," she told the audience, most of whom currently live in the throes of midterm examinations.

To cap the evening, Marc Lapadula, a professor of screenwriting in the Writing Seminars, analyzed the role of modern technology in contemporary cinema, at times disparagingly. In a moment of joking self-deprecation, Lapadula called his speech the "lowbrow part of the evening."

To exemplify his points on technology's hindrances, he showed a clip from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, in which Kier Dullea burns his hand on a futuristic misconception of a microwave oven.

"If you're a writer today, the sort of modern bewilderment of cinema for the screenwriter is how he or she grapples with the technology we have on our hands — all the machines that dominate our lives," Lapadula said, then paused, checking his phone for comedic effect. "We used to write letters, and now we tweet."

Attendees greatly enjoyed the lecture.

"It was wonderful, if only because it was information that I'll never acquire in a classroom setting," freshman Dev Patel said. "And it was a necessary break from studying."

Campus Kitchen feeds hungry while reducing food waste

By GAURI WAGLE
For The News-Letter

It's easy to get lost in the stressful world of biochem labs, history theses and orgo midterms. There's little break to the rigorous schedules and strenuous class work at Hopkins. But the Hopkins chapter of Campus Kitchen keeps students grounded by reminding students of the misfortunes of the world outside of our own bubble.

The chapter was founded in 2009 by a student-led initiative. It operates as a branch of the national organization of Campus Kitchen, a nonprofit group that fosters nutritious and healthy lives.

"Waste is wrong: be it food, money, or the potential for people to live productive lives," Director of Food Resources, senior Audrey Swanenberg said.

The primary mission of the organization is to prevent campus waste and transform it into help for the less fortunate. To that end, one of their main activities is gathering excess food from local restaurants and vendors and using it to provide meals to those in need.

Since its inception, nearly 260 volunteers have completed 600 hours of community service and gathered over 8,500 meals to redistribute to the community. That equates to thousands of pounds of fresh and canned food from the 11 organizations they work with locally.

The group is organized in a seven member leadership team and an army of volunteers. The leadership team consists of three paid

interns and four unpaid volunteers. The interns head resources, logistics and events — this includes Swanenberg's position. The volunteer of the leadership board control aspects such as media and the delegation of tasks to volunteers.

To provide meals to Baltimoreans in need, Campus Kitchen collaborates with many local organizations. For example, the Franciscan Center and Church of the Guardian Angel are both heavily involved in the Hopkins chapter's outreach programs.

Local grocery stores, restaurants, and businesses donate their excess food and leftovers to the organization and the food is redistributed to schools, churches, and shelters throughout the Baltimore community. For instance, Campus Kitchen takes advantage of the "Fresh Bagels Only" policy of Einstein's Bagels at Hopkins. Volunteers collect the left over bagels and take them to after school programs as snacks for the students.

The organic grocery store in Mt. Vernon, Milk And Honey, donates its excess food products to Campus Kitchen, which volunteers to redistribute the products to the Franciscan center. Campus Kitchen also works with other campus favorites such as Donna's, and even the Hopkins food provider, Aramark, to redistribute food to the hungry.

The group organizes several programs as part of its multi-pronged mission to raise awareness, increase outreach, prevent waste, and provide for those in need. For example,

the leadership board organizes two cooking shifts every week, one at the Franciscan Center and another at the Church of the Guardian Angel. Members who are safe serve certified serve food to the less fortunate and about six members attend each weekly session.

Not only does the chapter provide food to those who need it, but it also educates the community about nutrition and safety, building long-lasting roots and ensuring a better tomorrow. Volunteers hold nutrition classes at Waverly Middle School as part of an outreach program created by Eve Rorison, a senior Public Health major, in an attempt to build excitement about being healthy in the students.

In addition to their philanthropic efforts, the group hosts a number of on campus events. Last night the group hosted Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Trivia Night at Nolan's. The group used the opportunity to advertise for the upcoming homelessness awareness event this weekend, "A Bench is Not a Bed."

This Saturday night, in conjunction with Goucher College, Loyola University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland, the Hopkins chapter will be sleeping on the steps of the Baltimore City Hall as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Week. The event and movement is part of an effort to increase empathy and awareness of homelessness and remove the stigma associated with homelessness.

"There are a lot of stereotypes surrounding the homeless population. It's important to remember that there are many factors outside of an individual's control that may lead to homelessness, and that there are many places to intercept those cycles of poverty. Providing people with food is just one way to alleviate the injustice of homelessness and unnecessary hunger," Swanenberg said.

This event has been endorsed by the National Student Campaign against

Hunger and Homelessness (NSCHH) and the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH). It is held every year the week before Thanksgiving as part of a tradition of giving back and giving thanks. Swanenberg estimated that there would be about 200 people at the event downtown.

Furthermore, the chapter is hosting a clothing drive in anticipation of the upcoming cold weather. Donations of old clothing and warm coats can be dropped off in the AMR mailroom as well as in Charles Commons until tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 18.

For the future, the chapter is currently planning a new community garden at the Hopkins Eastern Campus to grow organic, fresh food. However, they are still in search for a creative name for the garden and have opened the naming process up to students. The winner will receive a Gertrude's brunch for two. The garden will serve as a relationship building tool — connecting Hopkins to the Baltimore community and establishing a charitable mind set in the Hopkins world. Safe and sustainable food production methods will be encouraged and

Baltimore's hungry will be helped.

With the overwhelming amount of upcoming events, Swanenberg bemoaned the declining number of volunteers. She claimed it was an annual trend — excitement that begins with the start of the year but dies right after midterms and right before finals. However, Campus Kitchen depends on its army of volunteers to execute its lofty goals and missions. Without the volunteers, the 20,000 pounds of food that Campus Kitchen has thus far recovered would not have been possible.

"There is just so much opportunity to expand and use all the free student labor we have on our hands. We could do so much to implement social change," Swanenberg said. "Hopkins can do more — every one of us can do more. We just need more people to dedicate their time. We could get distributors from the Harbor! We could get crates and crates of food. But we need volunteers to deliver it, to redistribute it. We need their involvement and their creativity so that we can deliver what we promise."



COURTESY OF WWW.CAMPUSKITCHENS.ORG

Volunteers also work kitchen shifts to help serve food to the less fortunate.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Walters Art Museum and Hopkins bring Archimedes to life

Hopkins Hellenic Students Association joins forces with Mount Vernon Museum to bring the Baltimore Greek community together.

By **ASHLEY EMERY**
Staff Writer

The Walters Art Museum and the Hopkins Hellenic Students Association co-hosted an evening at the museum in celebration of the renowned Archimedes Palimpsest Exhibition, *Lost and Found: The Secrets of Archimedes*, last Thursday. Attendance was limited to sixty prominent attendees — influential Baltimoreans and powerful members from the Greek community from across the nation.

The event began with William Noel, Archimedes Project Director and Walters Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, welcoming the guests and leading them to watch a short video and then go on a guided tour of the exhibition.

The exhibition features texts contained within *The Archimedes Palimpsest* procured by conservation and imaging efforts, which researchers at the Walters began in 1999. It chronicles the route of uncovering the texts and the unearthing of Archimedes' mathematical genius, illustrating that Archimedes discovered the mathematics of infinity, mathematical physics and combinatorics.

"What have we discovered that today pushes the boundaries of mathematics? Nothing. What we have discovered, what we have rewritten, is the history of mathematics," Noel said.

To enhance the appeal of *The Archimedes Palimpsest*, Hopkins junior George Petrocheilos, president of the Hopkins Hellenic Student Association, collaborated with Greek-American Baltimore philanthropist and museum patron Anna Pappas to liven up the exhibition and peak the interest of college students, professors, families, children and Baltimoreans.

"I believe in my culture. We have the best museum in Maryland and one of the best on the east coast, [featuring an exhibit on] Archimedes. I'm not going to let this go. I used all of my personal network to make this happen," Petrocheilos said.

Petrocheilos, together with Pappas, was in charge of the organization and publicity for the event but stressed that he never did anything alone.

"[Petrocheilos] very much understands that it takes a community to make something happen like a museum exhibition. It takes more than one person; it is a community effort. He really put it all together by collecting the right people to come



Many prominent figures attended *Lost and Found: The Secrets of Archimedes*, an exhibit open at the Walters Art Museum until January 2012.

and enjoying this evening together," Andrea Vespoint, Community Outreach Chair of the Walters, said. Vespoint also helped spearhead the event.

The exhibition event drew a high profile crowd to the Walters that evening. The guest list included Congressman John Sarbanes, City Council Candidate Jason Filippou and Former Maryland Secretary of Business and Economic Development Aris Melissaratos, among many others.

Petrocheilos cited Melissaratos as a primary inspiration throughout the process of planning for this event.

"He didn't only fund all of our projects for the HSA, but he also became my personal mentor. He became like a father-figure to me in Baltimore," Petrocheilos said.

Melissaratos played a crucial role in helping Petrocheilos establish connections with the Baltimore Greek Community in order to bring a meaningful crowd to the event.

"The Walters did a great job by allowing me to be there and represent the Greek community and helping me bring the best ambassadors of the Greek community in Baltimore, DC, Pennsylvania and Chicago. That's what I liked about this exhibition. The approach of the Walters: we want the Greeks there, we want the Greeks to play a major part in it [and] we

want the Johns Hopkins students to play a major part in it," Petrocheilos said.

A unique aspect of the exhibition is the integration of technology, art and history. Technology played a major role in the exhibition because of all the work that has gone into uncovering the journey that the palimpsest underwent.

Archimedes acquired

his legendary reputation for running down the streets of Syracuse in the third century B.C. exclaiming 'Eureka!' but his true prestige lies in him being the founder of modern physics. He wrote the treatise *The Method of Mechanical Theorems*, which centers on the concept of absolute infinity, and the Archimedes Palimpsest contains the only surviving copy of

this treatise.

In Constantinople in the 10th century, an anonymous scribe copied Archimedes' treatise onto parchment; however, in the 13th century, a monk erased the Archimedes text, cut the pages and created a Greek Orthodox prayer book with the parchment, a process known as palimpsesting. The Archimedes text then ran horizontally and

the prayers ran vertically. The manuscript was then lost for centuries.

Biblical scholar Constantin von Tischendorf first found a leaf of the manuscript at the Metochion of the Holy Sepulcher in 1844, and in 1906, Johan Ludvig Heiberg discovered the manuscript. He travelled to the Metochion of the Holy Sepulcher and uncovered that it contained Archimedes treatises.

"At the Board of Directors meeting in June," they said,

"We have a book, and no one would care to come for more than two minutes to see a book." What did we say with Ms. Pappas? Focus on technology, on the high-tech procedures and methods of your technicians, the geniuses you have back there in your labs, used to reveal the Archimedes legacy. That is the point: to combine a two thousand year old document with technology, with innovation, with the high-tech techniques of 2011, which only the Walters has," Petrocheilos said.

Overall, the fusion of the science attributed to uncovering the texts into the exhibition provides a rare, unique perspective and has sparked great interest among audiences.

"Kids are loving [the scientific aspects of the exhibition]. It's having a wider appeal to a wider audience," Vespoint said.

The exhibition will be open to the public at the Walters until Jan. 1, 2012.

Women, Gender and Sexuality caters to all interests

By **KATIE NAYMON**
Staff Writer

With 40 minors to choose from, some Hopkins students may not consider the program in Women, Gender and Sexuality very useful. Director Paola Marrati disagrees.

"It's an intellectual adventure," she said of the minor.

Combining the fields of psychology, sociology, anthropology, literature and many others, Women, Gender and Sexuality is a small interdisciplinary minor that any student, regardless of major, can pursue. The program began in 1988 and just focused on Women's Studies. In 1999, the program expanded to become Women, Gender and Sexuality (WGS). Marrati estimates there are about 17 to 22 minors currently, though this fluctuates yearly. Since 2005, the program has never had less than 15 minors. These students come from a diverse group of majors such as Writing Seminars, Anthropology, English and Biology.

According to the program's website, the goal of the minor is to "promote interdisciplinary scholarship on women, gender, sexuality and related issues." The minor requires six courses, with at least one chosen from the "core," which includes Feminist and Queer Theory, The Poetics of Politics and Sex, a course dealing with religion and a course taught by a highly vetted graduate student, respectively. Many courses are offered each semester and most are cross-listed with other departments such as English, Film and Media Studies and History.

For the Spring 2012 semester, courses such as "Economics of Discrimination," "Human Sexual Orientation" and "Gender and Sexuality in Early Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean" are offered.

The minor is very flexible and tries to synthesize its field with the array of academic offerings on campus, from the humanities to the hard sciences.

Marrati believes this flexibility makes Hopkins' program particularly strong.

"We're trying to follow gender and sex as it follows in different fields," she said. "We're strong interdisciplinary. Through sociology, anthropology, public health — we're trying to provide a forum."

Former Associate Director of WGS Aaron Goodfellow, a member of the Steering Committee, the decision-making body for the program, believes Hopkins' program is unique from other WGS programs at larger universities.

"It's special in its capacity to bend and flex with the larger fields represented by the program," he said. "The program can easily pick up on those sparks and new developments and offer curriculum in those subject areas. We're extremely flexible and mobile. You can tailor this minor to any field you are pursuing."

Unlike a department for a major, a program for a minor cannot hire and appoint faculty. According to Goodfellow, the administration of a program is more decentralized — but WGS uses this to its advantage.

"There's a tendency to think of small programs as lacking," he said. "But WGS is the opposite. It's relatively decentralized in its administration and we rely on grad fellows to teach coursework. We see these as great strengths of the program. The grad students are considered colleagues."

This relationship between students and faculty in the program sets WGS apart. Goodfellow said that because the program is small, there is more interaction between profes-

sors, grad students and undergraduates than in larger programs. Goodfellow said the learning goes back and forth.

"I learn a lot from reading student papers," he said. "We try to cultivate that philosophy."

Goodfellow also emphasized that the program is very cohesive.

"The pedagogy is not broken down between research, faculty and undergraduates," he said. "The conversations we are having in the speaker series are ongoing with graduate and undergraduate students. It is all integrated."

Goodfellow said that one of the key differences between the WGS minor at Hopkins and the program at larger universities is that there is no canonical text or no preset foundation in terms of curriculum. Classes change every year based on what's current in the field, instead of sticking to a permanent curriculum like older programs tend to do.

"Women, Gender and Sexuality is an incredibly fluid field," he said. "The subject matter changes very quickly. By not having a strictly defined set of texts, we can stay abreast of the changes in the field. We're at the cutting edge of the field, which is not typical for major universities."

This fall, the program is having a Gender History Workshop, which invites students and faculty to present and discuss concepts about gender and sexuality. Marrati cites these workshops as one of the defining features of the minor.

But in a depressed economy, where students may feel pressure to declare a more traditional minor like engineering or business, Marrati still believes the WGS program at Hopkins has a lot to offer graduates. She cited government, health and education as

fields that deal with gender issues.

"You don't know what kinds of skills you'll need when you enter the job market," she said. "WGS is very helpful across all professions. You may find it useful to know the problems of gender in your field. It's not a purely academic enterprise."

Goodfellow agrees.

"If you want to work in public health, for example, the program will allow you to augment what you're doing in your major. It's about critical perspective."

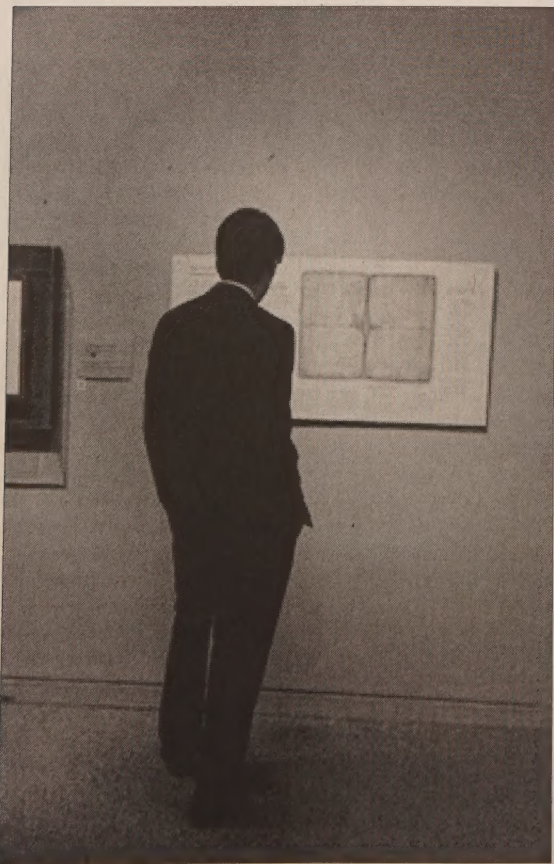
Many students also participate in internships in many fields. The program partners with Hopkins' Center for Social Concern to provide a Summer Internship Practicum. Students who pursue this work with the Center to find local organizations in Baltimore that deal with everything from teenage pregnancy to domestic violence.

After Hopkins, Marrati said many students choose to pursue a graduate school education, often in sociology, anthropology or philosophy. Some even apply to medical school.

"Those programs increasingly offer specialization with WGS," she said.

As far as the future of the program, Goodfellow said it is anyone's guess how the program will evolve over the years. The programs in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences are currently undergoing an evaluation in the form of the Futures Seminars. Goodfellow said that the program is up for reinvention because of the new Krieger dean, along with new voices in the program's administration.

"Programs here like to reinvent themselves," he said. "It's a moment of great opportunity and uncertainty. We're at a peak right now."



COURTESY OF GEORGE PETROCHEILOS

Hopkins junior John Henry Luckner looks at *The Archimedes Palimpsest*.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Professor brings a new view of art to Hopkins

By **SOPIA IATAROLA**
For *The News-Letter*

The History of Art Department's most recent addition, Dr. Felipe Pereda of Madrid, Spain, has filled a gap in art history's Western timeline — medieval to early modern Spanish art.

Since opting to study art history in college, Pereda has ventured into relatively unexplored territory by American standards, one which consists of the boisterous artistic activity during the Renaissance and Baroque periods in Spain.

Since joining Hopkins last year, Pereda has taught a course each for undergraduates and graduates, sharing expertise that, outside of Spain, is quite limited. Currently both his courses, "Art and Faith in Golden Age Spain" and "Art & Reform in Renaissance Spain" focus on the influence and significance of religious images while examining master Spanish artists beyond iconic figures like Diego Velázquez and Jusepe de Ribera. As such, Pereda's inclusion in the department adds both depth and range to an already-rich field of study.

Born and raised in Madrid, Pereda grew up amid world-renowned art and architecture, an unquestionable contribution to his later decision to study Art History in college.

Upon entering the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Pereda, unlike most American undergraduates, had already officially decided what he planned to study.

"You have already made your choice before you study," Pereda said, "I went to study History, and from there, I had a choice between History and History of Art."

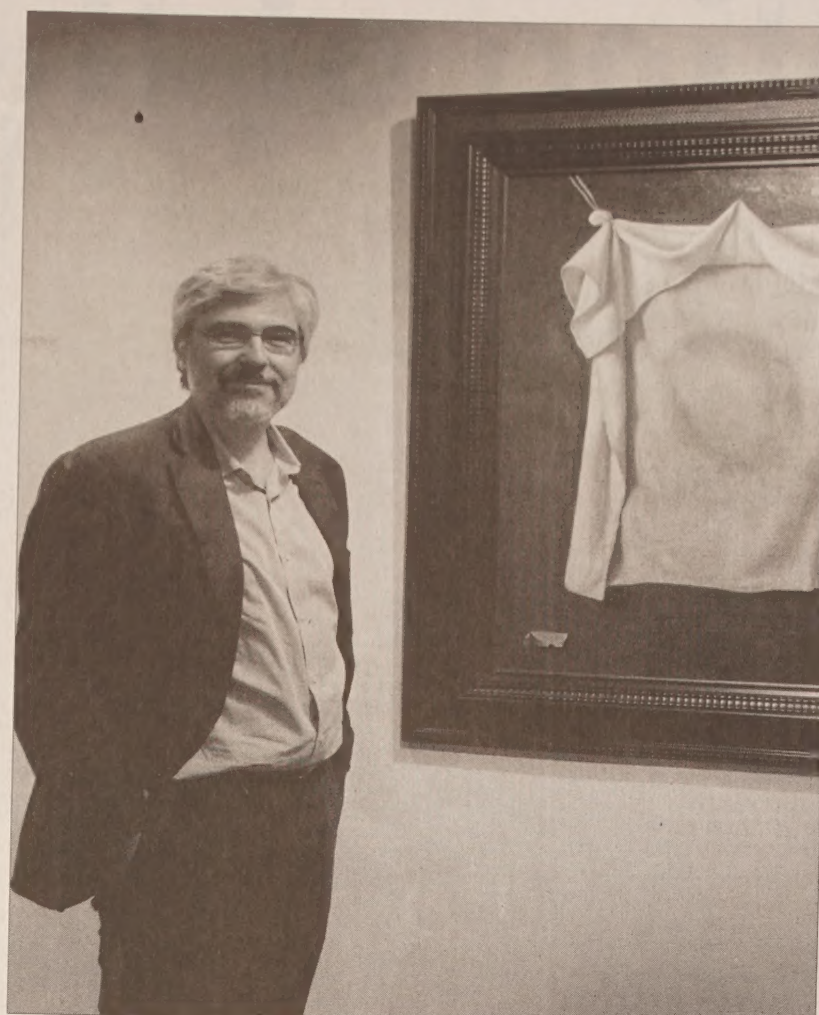
As a student he also studied philosophy, which he thinks overlaps with art history in a variety of ways that he can still apply as a professor today.

"Within philosophy I focused on the history of aesthetics, so there was overlap with my art history studies which I found very interesting and use in the classes I teach," Pereda said.

Pereda reflects upon his undergraduate experience with a laugh and some indifference.

"[It was] just okay. It's a very crowded university where there are very good professors, but not very much attention to individual students and so forth," Pereda said.

"In Spain, in University, there is not that much of a choice. The program is very much structured and not very many options."



Dr. Felipe Pereda stands next to Francisco de Zurbarán's *Más allá de la mimesis*, one subject of his studies.

Pereda's vision of the college experience was vastly different from the one exhibited at Hopkins. When asked about the difference between his experience and what he has observed at Hopkins saw vast contrasts.

"They are opposite experiences... they are very different," he said. "First of all, the number of students in a class is very different. From my experience here, I teach small classes. It seems overall there are more options than just big lectures. Then here, you have the library, the resources, are all on campus

"In Madrid, students would just go to class and leave as quickly as they could after. There wasn't really a campus life. Also the research and teaching was completely separate — it doesn't happen on campus [in Madrid]. Professors just go to the university to teach their classes. Here, the community is much better integrated."

After finishing his undergraduate studies, Pereda furthered his edu-

cation at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, where he also received his PhD in Art History, to work with others studying Early Modern Spanish art. His thesis was about architecture and humanism in Renaissance Spain, specifically in Salamanca, a town in Castile.

Though he left for one year to study at Harvard, Pereda eventually returned to Autónoma.

"After my studies, I stayed [there] to teach, which is a rare thing for the United States.

"I taught for thirteen years, except for one where I worked as a fellow at the National Gallery. I taught mostly undergraduates in big lecture classes. There are some seminars in Spanish universities. But mostly teaching is about [the] lecture."

Here at Hopkins, especially in the Art History department, Pereda has expanded on his interest in the intersection of Art History and the philosophy of aesthetics.

As an art historian and

a teacher, Pereda found it difficult to pick one aspect from all his years of research and teaching. However, he found the advantages of community that campuses like Hopkins provide the most distinct.

"It is a very broad question. But I think of myself as a very vocational teacher. And I like very much that I think that it's a profession where teaching and research can go very well together. [History of Art] is actually a very experimental field, in that respect," he said.

Currently, Pereda is researching Francisco de Zurbarán, the 17th century painter nicknamed the "Spanish Caravaggio" for his use of the chiaroscuro and tenebrism techniques.

"This is the artist I am most interested in right now," he said.

"I am working on Spanish visual culture and the representation of emotions in Golden Age Spain. Hopefully this project will turn into a book."

For most students, especially ones of Art History, previous exposure and conceptions of art have a profound impact on the ability to objectively analyze it. The opportunity to study any art, especially art made during the Renaissance and Baroque periods in Europe, without bias is quite unique.

"It is a great advantage because I am showing and talking about things on which the students have almost or absolutely no prejudices," he said. "They know so little that everything is new and that makes things much more flexible—there are no preconceived notions, which is the good thing about it. The other side of so little previous knowledge is that it's hard to teach everything, talk about everything, and fill the whole map of Spain."

Through teaching, Pereda hopes his students will share his enthusiasm.

"My goal is to raise general interest in Art History in Spain. And to put Spain on the map, figuratively, because it doesn't exist right now. My other goal is to interact with other departments, historians and anthropologists for example, to explore Spanish culture and history from different perspectives," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN KUPFERBERG
EWB's annual tournament raised money for a water treatment system.

Engineers fund raise for trip to Guatemala

Engineers Without Borders host dodgeball tourney

By **BEN KUPFERBERG**
Staff Writer

The Rec Center gym was crowded with costumes and competition as Engineers Without Borders Guatemala (EWB) hosted its third annual Dodgeball tournament this past Friday evening to raise money for their inter-session trip to Guatemala this winter.

"I went to play in the tournament because dodgeball is amazing, and it was for a great cause," freshman Quinn Dunkak said. "I would definitely come to a similar event in the future."

The tournament was a fundraiser for the group's trip to Guatemala, where they will build a solar powered water pump that would give a Guatemalan community access to safe drinking water.

18 teams, consisting of five to eight people, joined the tournament that evening. Each team had to dress up in a costume of their choice. Some found this to be a fun aspect of the event.

"Seeing everyone dressed up in their respective costumes was my favorite part. That, and seeing how intense everyone was getting throughout the night," freshman Bill Kim, a member of EWB, said.

The tournament had a single elimination format, where teams were placed into brackets. After a series of three-minute matches, a team of freshmen, donning penguin costumes, came out victorious. The team consisted of Erik Lim, Sam Wiessler, Jensen Reiter, Tanner Brown, Edward Corty, Ben Hwang, Daniel Ovelar, and Liam Devine.

The tournament turned out to be a success, with many Hopkins students expressing their inner desire to play competitive dodgeball. Students had to pay five dollars to play and EWB asked for a dollar donation from spectators. At the end of the night, the group made a little over \$500.

"This dodgeball tournament was run by two

freshman members, which is really exciting. Any student can contribute a lot to the organization, and this successful event was run by some of our newest members," sophomore Clea Baumhofer, a team leader for EWB, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The main mission of EWB is to improve the lives of people living in small, underdeveloped communities. These communities often times lack access to crucial resources, and struggle to survive without them.

"Engineers Without Borders is all about students taking the initiative to improve the infrastructure in developing countries. It's a great way to gain experience in actually working as an engineer, or as any kind of professional," Baumhofer wrote.

Women and children have to spend countless hours each day collecting water, rather than going to school or attempting to tackle other chores.

The organization is working on installing a pumping system to pump the water up to a central location in the village. They then want to move on to water treatment, and potentially install water in individual homes.

EWB's trip in January is a trip to get all the prep work done for their eventual project. It will be primarily for building all the concrete structures for their project, including the catchment basin and pump tank at the site of the stream. There will also be two storage tanks constructed and a tap stand in the village.

The organization will also be surveying the steepest areas where they will eventually have to lay piping. There is another trip planned for June, where the piping and solar panels will be installed.

The club has raised approximately \$25,000 for their mission so far, but to complete the trip in June they need approximately \$7,000 more, which they will be working to earn throughout next semester.

My goal is to raise general interest in Art History in Spain. And to put Spain on the map, figuratively.

—DR. FELIPE PEREDA,
HISTORY OF ART
PROFESSOR

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CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 10 issue, in the article titled "Students protest Obama's pipeline proposal," on A2, the headline incorrectly attributes the pipeline proposal to President Obama. The headline should instead read "Students protest State Department's pipeline proposal."

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

New evaluations spark mixed reactions

EVALUATIONS, FROM A1
only people that were unhappy would fill out the survey."

In addition to access to final grades, students will need to complete all their course evaluations to view unofficial transcripts online and to have official transcripts released by the Registrar's Office.

The University will employ EvaluationKit, an online course evaluation program, to administer the surveys and collect the data.

Because students will need to complete all their course evaluations on their own time, the evaluation form has been shortened to 10 or 11 questions, according to Steven David, Vice Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Several reasons were cited for the procedure and policy change, including the logistical, environmental and accuracy concerns. University officials felt the former paper system was cumbersome and unwieldy to administer and took up class time. Officials were also concerned that only those with extreme feelings would complete the survey and the results would not be truly representative of student opinion.

"The old system was extremely labor intensive, environmentally unfriendly, and inaccurate," Scheiner-

man said.

Additional benefits of electronic evaluations include better accuracy for all responses and improved user-friendliness.

Last semester, the University ran a pilot program in which several departments tested the online survey. The Student Government Association and the Graduate Representative Organization were also polled for their opinion of the new online form.

"The [student] response has been overwhelmingly positive," David said.

"Students like doing it electronically," Scheiner-

man said. University officials also claimed that the Merlin website, the current site where past course evaluation information can be accessed, will either be revamped or replaced with a more user-friendly interface.

"I don't think the current system is as user-friendly or has the impact that it should," David said. "The site for the new system should be easier to navigate."

However, specific details could not be provided at the time.

"We do want students to see [the data]," Scheinerman said, adding that whether on the

current Merlin site or via a new interface, the course evaluations from this semester would be made available to students.

Overall, the University feels the new changes will be a benefit to both students and faculty.

"Students at other universities [complete course evaluations] without much fuss or bother," Scheinerman said. "Most students want to participate."

"It's how students make courses better," he said.

Student reaction to the change has been mixed.

"I think it's stupid," sophomore Juliana Cotto said, while acknowledging the effectiveness of the new policy in completing course evaluations. "I don't like it."

"It makes it a lot easier for students who may not be able to be in class that day," senior Daniel Lopez said. "I think it's a good policy."

It makes it a lot easier for students who may not be able to be in class that day. I think it's a good policy.

— DANIEL LOPEZ, SENIOR



OLIVIA BERMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Flash mob participants practiced a choreographed dance sequence prior to filming for the thank you video.

Students bust a move, say thanks

FLASH MOB, FROM A1
and other benefactors. The shoot lasted an hour and was essentially problem-free, according to Pipkin in a follow-up e-mail.

"We weren't disappointed," she said.

Participants, meanwhile, relished the opportunity to express thanks through — as freshman Eleni Padden described it — "a most expressive art form."

"Hey, I love to dance," she said. "And for once,

it's doing more good than harm."

The concept of performance-based video appreciation stems from creative collaboration within Office of Communications, primarily through the department's Marketing and Creative Services team.

Jay Corey, the team's director of video strategy and the producer of this year's video, could not be reached for comment.

This year's video is the third of its kind at Hopkins. Pipkin cites the em-

phatic success of past videos as the driving factor in the decision to make another.

"President Daniels has received such positive feedback from them, and wanted to have another created this year," she wrote.

Past videos include "We Thank You" — a play on Isaac Hayes' disco hit "Thank You" — and last year's release, "The Model of a Modern University," which spoofed a theme from the Broadway musical Pirates of Penzance.

Council deliberates covered grades policy

GRADES, FROM A1
past five years, the topic was also tabled for months at a time due to Council membership turnover or work on promotions, appointments and department reviews.

For October 15, 2008 the Council minutes stated, "It was decided that a subcommittee of the Academic Council, the Academic Affairs' subcommittee, will work . . . to discuss the topic of covered grades with students, faculty, alumni, and staff members . . . Following their fact-finding, the subcommittee will generate a report and a recommendation, with supporting materials, for the Academic Council to review and vote upon."

Later, the October 6, 2010 minutes recorded that, "Last year Council went through a process of examining [covered grades], and no consensus on a way forward emerged . . . there is an obligation to bring some closure to this matter."

The Council is comprised of 12 voting faculty members, four from the School of Engineering, three representing the humanities, three representing the natural sciences and two from the social sciences. Additionally,

seven ex officio members, including Dean Douglas, sit on the Council, with the president of the University

as permanent chair.

"The council members had various experiences and they really wanted to be very careful, so they looked into issues like what is the effect of covered grades," Dean Douglas said. "[Because of this] it really took a long time to get everything together."

The controversy surrounding covered grades hinges on whether the program eases the transition to college and encourages exploration, or facilitates slacking and partying. Additional concerns relate to the importance of introductory coursework as the basis for students' later study.

"Some of the arguments are that [the program] encourages students to go easy in classes, and this is especially a problem in the sciences and math where you need a foundation to go to the next level," Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education, Steven David, who is not on the Council, said.

Student opinion about the possible change in policy was largely negative.

"From the perspective of international students, it gives us time to adjust to a new culture, new surroundings and new methods of teaching," Madhvi Aggarwal, a freshman from India, said. "People say it's not good because you learn bad habits, but once you start figuring out

how hard the classes are, you start realizing how things will be, because it's a huge adjustment."

Many students refuted the idea that freshmen slack off during their semester of covered grades.

"I feel like most of the students here . . . are working to their academic potential," freshman Natalie Richmond said. "We still have plenty of semesters without covered grades."

"We could find our study habits and which one is effective and also we could play or do something fun a lot," junior Sung Jin Jeong said. "I have good memories of that time. We could take challenging classes and see our limits."

Some students, fearing that the new policy would impact them retroactively, reacted with concern.

"Did you see how scared I was when I thought covered grades were going away?" freshman Miriam Million said. "That's serious. I was actually alarmed."

Though the debate has percolated on campus for years, it is now closer to a resolution.

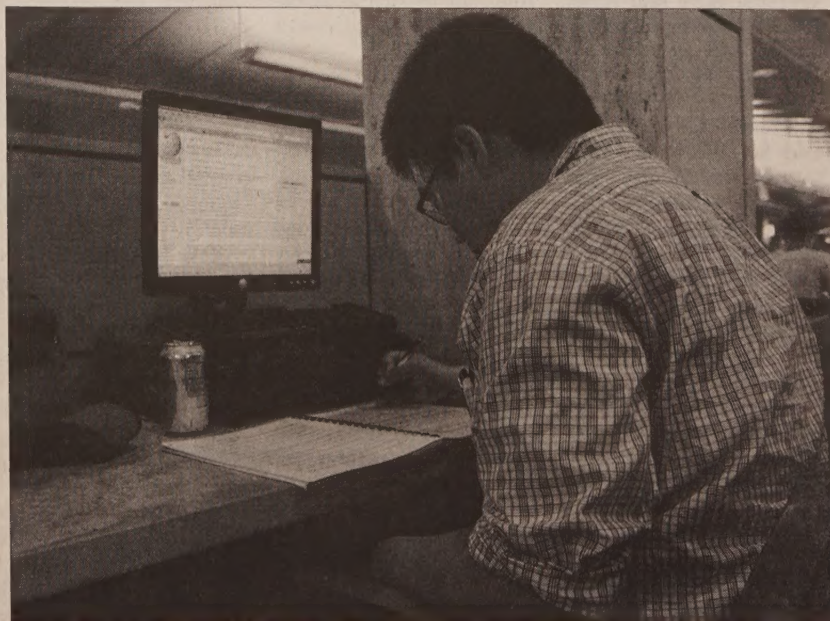
"I guess right now we're waiting to hear whether the President agrees with this [motion], and if it takes effect it'll take effect," Dean David said. "We'll live with the change. We'll be more like other universities . . ."

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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FILE PHOTO

Under the current policy, freshmen can study without fear of negative repercussions on their cumulative GPA.

NEWS & FEATURES

Rove lecture disrupted by Occupy movement, student protesters

Hopkins security removes 15 protesters from the Shriver

ROVE, FROM A1

The protestors continued to heckle Rove, screaming "Occupy America" and chanting "We are the 99 percent."

"Who gave you the right to occupy America?" Rove said in response.

Rove was deterred by the disruption.

"I can do this all night long," he said.

The continued disruptions prompted MSE co-chair, junior Elizabeth Goodstein, to approach the podium and ask for silence until the end of the speech.

"I know that Rove does not represent all Republicans and that Axelrod does not represent all Democrats. I had to get on stage because I felt compelled to maintain a sense of order. I was very clear that everyone is entitled to free speech. We extended the time that we usually allot for questions. Having the right to free speech is a right of Rove, the MSE, the protestors and the student body, but all with in reason. Everyone deserves equal respect," Goodstein said, describing her reasons for going on stage.

Many Hopkins students present were upset with the constant outbursts from the protestors. Whenever a Hopkins security personnel removed one of the instigators, the Hopkins students cheered and gave standing ovations for the security personnel.

Many students were disappointed with the way in which some members of the crowd handled the event.

"My congressional representative wants to make Christianity the official religion of the United States. I disagree with this, but I handle this issue with civility," sophomore Hilary Matfess said. "Hopkins is described as being a-political, but we're not. Tonight, the crowd was disrespectful."

Senior Gabrielle Matuzsan, who sat in front of a group of protestors, overheard them speaking prior to the uproar.

"Outside, the protest was peaceful and well organized," Matuzsan said. "Once they got inside, we heard them talking about how they were going to interrupt [Rove]."

Matuzsan said she was furious that the protestors tried to prevent Rove from completing his speech.

"I didn't agree with everything Rove said either. But I was going to let him speak, and then ask my question," she said.

Matuzsan noted that the hecklers seated around her told her they were from Occupy Baltimore, and she only recognized one as a Hopkins student. She said it was hard to tell how many of the hecklers had been at the protest.

Other students believed that protests truly enhanced the evening.

"Between the antics of the Occupy protesters and Rove's southern charm, what would have otherwise been a stale Republican stump speech ended up making for a very entertaining event," junior Wyatt Larkin said.

"I was thrilled to see someone bring out so much passion. The MSE symposium is supposed to

be intellectually stimulating, as well as entertaining. I think both of those objectives were achieved Tuesday," MSE staff member, sophomore Elias Rosenblatt, said.

A number of the protestors escorted off the premise were participants in a protest organized by the Human Rights Working Group that occurred just prior to Rove's speech. Consisting of graduate, undergraduates and members of Veterans for Peace and Occupy Baltimore, the protest was meant to call attention to Rove's record during the Bush administration, according to protest organizers.

"The question was not whether to protest Rove, but what form that protest should take," Larry McGrath, a graduate student in the Humanities Center, said.

He cited allegations that the Bush Administration authorized the torture of suspected terrorists as the most significant reason for his decision to protest. He also cited Rove's role in promoting the American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Rove perfected the political category of terrorist in the context of what he called the 'War on Terror,'" McGrath said. "We believe that the 'War on Terror'

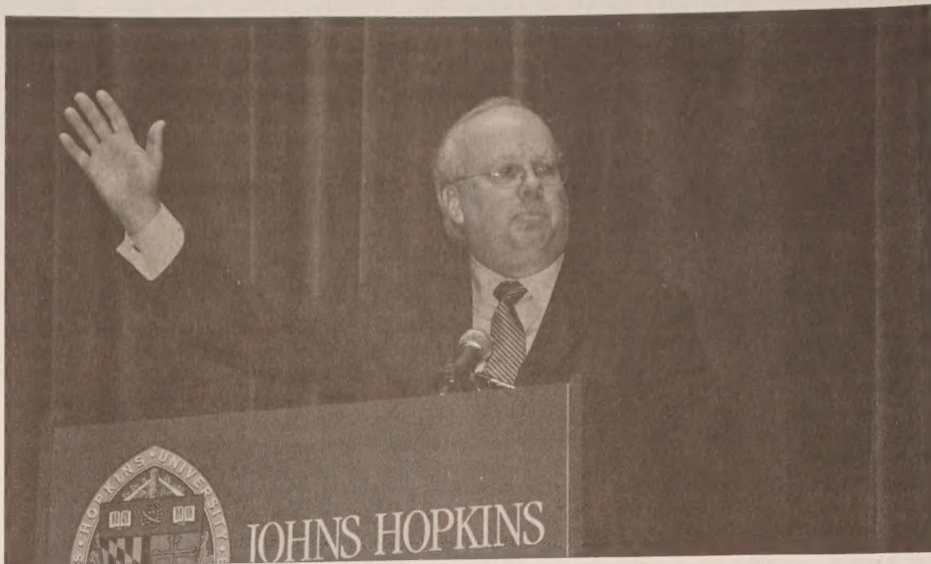
to disrupt the event inside. These actions were not planned by the Human Rights Working Group. A public event as large and prominent as Rove's appearance at Hopkins inevitably attracts a diverse crowd," the statement read.

However, many of the hecklers removed by security guards had attended the prior protest, with some still holding signs.

The choice of the MSE Symposium's concluding speaker was meant to be a counterweight to the previous week's choice of former chief advisor to President Obama, David Axelrod.

"We invited Rove to come speak to at the MSE Symposium while we were constructing the program this summer because we knew we wanted a political balance. MSE does not endorse a particular ideology and we wanted to hear both sides," Goodstein said.

During his talk, the



SIMON OPSIFOV/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Karl Rove, former Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to President Bush spoke at Tuesday's MSE Symposium.

He pointed out that since 2009, federal discretionary spending has increased by 84 percent, making government spending 25 percent of the entire US economy. The stimulus bill, in Rove's opinion, has not been very effective.

"We still have 9.1 percent unemployment and if you include discouraged workers, then it's more like 16% unemployment. According to administration's estimates, the stimulus would have lowered unemployment to around 6 percent by this time," Rove said.

In order to address President Obama's claim that the United States is not taxing its citizens fairly, Rove pointed to some statistics.

"The top 5 percent pay 59 percent of all taxes, though the bottom 50 percent only contribute to 3 percent of revenue," Rove said.

Health care was the issue Rove spent the most time analyzing. He began by asserting how unpopular the Affordable Care Act — pejoratively dubbed Obamacare — was before its passage and how its approval continues to decline.

"Even The Huffington Post says only 38 percent of Americans approve of the

"Why don't the small businesses get the same discounts as the big guys," Rove said.

His favorite claim by the administration regarding the health care law is that it will reduce the deficit by \$143 billion.

"Only if you believe in the tooth fairy," Rove said.

One suggestion that Rove had for the Obama administration and for Congress is to create rules that will produce a more sustainable budget. He believes that government should have to follow a budget the same way businesses and households do.

In the interview with *The News-Letter*, Rove had some words of wisdom for any young person interested in entering the political arena.

"Pick out what you want to do. Find your passion and pursue that. Just find some time to carve out for politics. If you want to be a doctor, be a doctor. Then find time on the side for politics."

Rove considers his time working as the National Chairman for College Republicans as the turning point in his political life.

"That really set my life. I ran my first congressional campaign at 23 and was able to make great friends," Rove said.

Before protesting Rove, the Human Rights Working Group held a talk by Brian Wilson, a veteran of the Vietnam War who has spent the past several decades protesting American military efforts.

Wilson addressed a crowd of about 70, comprised largely of graduate

students in Central America. Wilson said that he was at Hopkins not specifically to protest Rove, but rather to argue that the United States government was an "oligarchy committed to expansion at the expense of most of the rest of the planet."

Wilson's critique of American foreign policy was shared by Charles Pribble, a senior who attended Wilson's talk, joined the protest outside of Shriver Hall and was later thrown out of Rove's speech for heckling.

Pribble described Rove as a murderer and asked Wilson if he thought violence was a justified way to protest American military policies. Wilson said no, describing himself as a pacifist. "I asked that question for a reason," said Pribble. "Nazi Germany wasn't stopped by letter writing campaigns. You know what stopped them? Killing government officials, killing military officers." When asked if he thought that killing American troops could be justified, Pribble said that "anything is justified to prevent mass murder."

None of the organizers of the protest said they knew Pribble. Humanities Center graduate student Katie Boyce-Jacino, one of the event organizers, called Pribble's suggestion that anti-war protesters target U.S. troops "pretty horrible."

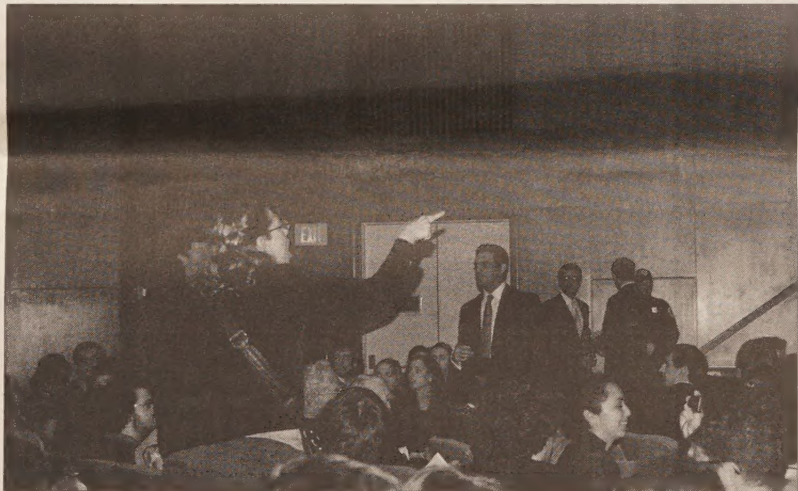
Boyce-Jacino emphasized that the protest was nonviolent, and advocated nonviolence as the most effective and necessary response to violence.

"[Wilson] was a great person to speak in contrast to Rove," Boyce-Jacino said. "The nonviolent nature of our protests, as well as Wilson's throughout his life as an activist, were particularly good counterpoints to the violence of the policies helped create."

While the protests caused some students to passionately agree or disagree, other students chose to find the humor in the situation.

"It sounds like the 99 percent found its own rhyming reverend," junior Ari Schaffer said, comparing McGrath's rhyming chants to the famously poetic slogans of liberal activist Rev. Al Sharpton.

"I told the protest organizers that I'm glad they're here," Kornblau said. "I'm just sorry they didn't bring the drum circle."



CATHERINE GUENTHER
Protesters interrupted Rove's speech multiple times, trying to prevent him from completing his talk.

was used to expedite US terror against the Middle East."

As students walked into Shriver Hall to attend Rove's speech, protestors shouted several chants that prompted angered reactions from students. Some of the chants included "9/11 was a handy cause to start some wars and break our laws" and "War crimes with a Hopkins twist. In Shriver there's a terrorist."

Some students disagreed with the protestors' claims.

"Karl Rove is a political figure, not a terrorist," junior Cameron Kemal said, as he walked into Shriver Hall Auditorium. "You don't have to agree with him, but he isn't a terrorist. Osama bin Laden was a terrorist."

Junior Corey Rogoff, an MSE staff member, objected to the assertion that Rove viewed 9/11 as more of a political tool than a national tragedy.

"I'm a Democrat," Rogoff said, adding that he hoped the audience would challenge Rove on his statements about Iraq's pre-war supplies of weapons of mass destruction. "But to suggest that Republicans don't feel the same way about 9/11 is going way too far."

Leaders of the Human Rights Working Group sent out a press release Tuesday night celebrating their protest, and stating that they did not encourage their participants to heckle Rove.

"Some attendees chose

former senior advisor to President George W. Bush sought to present his views regarding the current political and economic paths of the United States.

"We are facing great domestic issues. We have attempted one path to solve them and it has not worked.

That is why we need to change our course in 2012," Rove said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

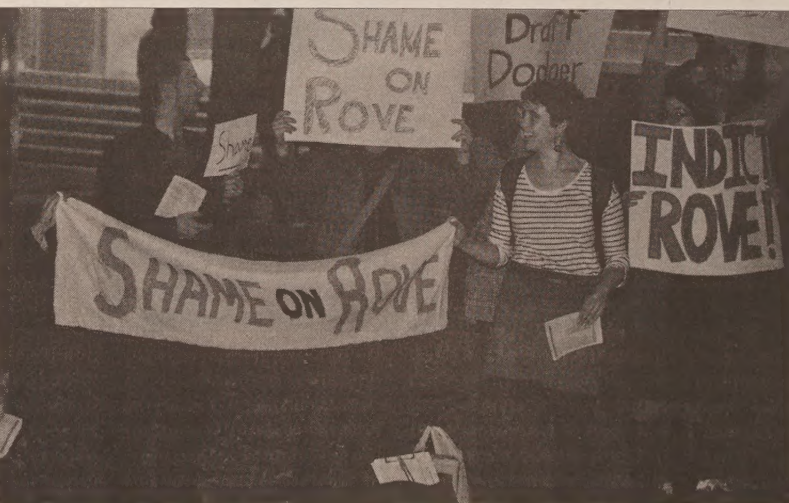
"My goal is to be factual with the students and to demonstrate to them that there are better alternatives out there," Rove said, when asked how he wanted to connect to the students at Hopkins.

Rove delved into discussing the daunting obstacles the United States is currently facing. He asserted that President Obama has been an ineffective leader, citing that from the inception of his presidency Obama made critical strategic mistakes.

"I thought that asking for a stimulus from Congress before being sworn in was a good idea, but you don't tell Congress you need between \$650-750 million and say 'Sure, I'll take \$800 million'. Congress needs a babysitter," Rove said.

analyzing. He began by asserting how unpopular the Affordable Care Act — pejoratively dubbed Obamacare — was before its passage and how its approval continues to decline.

"Even The Huffington Post says only 38 percent of Americans approve of the



CATHERINE GUENTHER/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Many protestors stood outside Shriver Hall before Rove's speech, shouting chants against the politician.

health care bill," Rove said.

Rove believes that the Obama administration's claim that 46 million Americans are uninsured is an inflated number. He believes that upwards of 10 million of those 46 million are illegal immigrants and, therefore, should not be covered. He described several conversations he has had with small business owners. Many of them, Rove said, are concerned by the prospect of having to pay significantly more in health care expenses for their employees.

students and local peace activists. He described his upbringing in a "born again" Christian family that "didn't have interesting philosophical discussions." He told of how, as an Air Force officer during Vietnam, he became convinced that the U.S. forces were intentionally killing civilians, and how he became a pacifist and rejected "the church and state that I was raised in."

In 1987, he was run over by a train while protesting the shipment of American weapons to anti-communist guerillas

COLUMNS

Gym rat Chad Johnson shares his fitness secrets

If you're a gym rat, then it just doesn't feel right to sit on your butt and not move. Needless to say, if you're a regular, you probably know who the other regulars are.

Chad Johnson, a graduate student at JHU working on his Ph.D in chemistry, is at the gym every day of the week. Most often seen on the basketball courts and the weight room, Chad has been deemed one of the most physically fit people to grace the Rec Center. I interviewed him to find out why.

What regular physical-demanding activities have you engaged yourself in since college?

Johnson: I've been involved in all types of sports . . . from basketball, football, soccer, volleyball . . . to golf. I played each of these sports consistently (and competitively) all throughout my undergraduate time at UVA. In addition, I weightlifted, swam and ran. I still do each of these things!

You play a lot of basketball. Do you practice any of your skills away from your recreational team and what training techniques do you use?

Johnson: Basketball is probably my favorite sport to participate in and, in my opinion, one of the best sports you can play for overall fitness. I say this because it is typically very fast-paced and gives you a total body workout. And, yes, I do practice away from the games I play in. Aside from playing pick-up ball at the gym, I shoot regularly on my own time, and much of my training gears around exercises that will serve me well on the court.

What are some of the most useful exercises that you do to help you with basketball?

Johnson: High intensity interval training (HIIT) is key for the sport, so I typically run sprints with short breaks in between to simulate that sprint/stop nature of basketball. I use plyometrics (weighted and non-weighted) to work on the jumping portion (along with the stair climber), and my typical weight train-

ing program builds up the strength I need for the position I play.

How often do you lift? In addition, if there were three exercises you had to pick among all others, what would they be?

Johnson: In terms of specific exercises, lunges (side to side, front/reverse), box jumps (weighted and non-weighted), speed-roping (double-unders, variations in speed, weighted/non-weighted jump-rope), styrofoam-tube-balance medical (along with one-foot-balance) ball toss, jump squats, calf raises (seated/standing), leg press, squats (front/regular), leg extension, hamstring curls and deadlifting. I do all of the upper-body workouts too, but that can be for another time.

I train every day of the week and I lift five days a week. I work a new muscle group each day (chest, triceps, back/bi/forearms, shoulder/traps, legs and three-four times core workout) but some muscles I train multiple times a week due to the other physical activities I'm involved in. I always make sure to vary my exercises, since variety helps you avoid hitting plateaus. I also make sure that each muscle group gets its proper resting time.

On the weekends, I typically do more plyometrics (since the gym isn't very crowded) and total body workouts. For example, on a Saturday or Sunday, I might do the "300 workout" or CrossFit exercises. If I had to choose three exercises, I would say those that the "1000 lbs" club uses for those interested in becoming members to join. That is deadlift, bench and squat. These are three lifts that are good measures of strength.

What does your diet consist of? What do you pre- and post-workout meals look like?

Johnson: In terms of diet, I'm a believer in or-

ganic foods. So, almost all of my meats/fruits/veggies will be either be locally grown or from a store that sells quality organic products. Is this to say I don't eat processed foods? Of course not. But, when I can go organic, I do. My diet is high in protein, low in fat/sat. fat, low in sugar (no ice cream, cookies, candy, etc) and medium/high in carbs (starchy carbs! As in, whole wheat). In addition, I rarely eat out!

My diet on a typical day would be:

Morning: Greek Yogurt, four-six ounces of nuts, banana, one piece of bread with melted (reduced fat)

swiss/provolone cheese along with a small protein shake. I also take my vitamins at this time.

Mid-Day snack (circa 10:30am): Fiber One bar and protein bar.

Lunch: Tuna sandwich (whole wheat bread, tuna made with low-fat mayo), small serving of Baked/Kettle cooked chips, banana/apple and 12 ounce glass of skim milk.

Pre-Workout: Small protein shake, four-six ounces of nuts, typically a Gatorade "Prime."

Post-Workout/Dinner: Protein shake, six-eight ounces of meat (organic beef, chicken, etc.), vegetables, rice/potatoes or whole wheat organic pasta and all with a 12 ounce glass of skim milk.

Before bed (usually one-1.5 hours before): Dannon Light/Fit yogurt, eight ounce glass of grape juice, banana or apple and a small protein shake.

What supplements do you take?

Johnson: I supplement with the following:

- 1) Whey Protein (by Healthy N' Fit)
- 2) Soy Protein (by Total-Soy)
- 3) Creatine Monohydrate (cycle on and off)
- 4) Glutamine
- 5) BCAA's
- 6) Glycomaize (Short, branched chain carbohy-

drates)

7) Taurine

8) Beta-Alanine (combined with Acetyl-L-cysteine and Alpha-Lipoic-Acid for faster absorption)

9) Green-Tea Extract, Acai berry extract/Guarana

10) Caffeine

11) Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA)

I also add a pre-workout mix into my water that I drink 45 minutes before I'm at the gym, but I cycle on/off that when I'm on/off creatine (since the supplement contains creatine). In terms of vitamins, I take a multivitamin (Mega-Men Sport), Vitamin D (2000 IU), Vitamin E (400 IU), Vitamin C (2000 mg), Vitamin B-complex (every other day), Niacin (500 mg), Fish Oil (4000 mg) and Flaxseed Oil (2500 mg).

I'm a big fan of supplementation to push your fitness to new levels. That being said, it needs to be done correctly and safely. There are several products out at Vitamin Shoppe/GNC/online that are not good for your body and that can cause serious side-effects. Not to mention majority of products out there are not evaluated by the FDA. So, before you jump into the realm of supplements, do your own research, ask others, ask your doctors, ask a sports nutritionist. Believe me, your health is worth it.

Being fit is not easy, and it will take time. But, be patient and stick with it. Focus on correct form in the weight room, and do the exercises right. You'll reap the benefits much quicker this way.

And to the Naysayers?

Johnson: Live the "FIT" lifestyle. . . watch what you put in your body, exercise regularly, learn from others (talk/engage with them at the gym!), get involved in sports (clubs, intramurals or just pick-up games at the gym), work out with your friends and get adequate amounts of sleep. Can you do it? Absolutely. It all starts with MOTIVATION. So, get to the gym, train with intensity, and results will come.



Yang Bai
Fitness Columnist



COURTESY OF CARTER BANKER
Standing on top of Machu Picchu offers a surreal view of the ancient city.

Peru's travel treasures: Machu Picchu and more

If you want to see something truly indescribable, go to Machu Picchu in Peru. One of the seven wonders of the world, Machu Picchu is an Incan city that remained unknown to the Spanish conquistadors and to outsiders in general until it was "discovered" (I use this term loosely because the local people knew of its existence) by Yale professor Hiram Bingham in 1911.

I recommend hiring a tour guide for the experience. I would bet good money that they make up half of what they say as they go along, but that is part of the fun of Machu Picchu. There are so many nooks and crannies and little rooms that can be whatever you want them to be. The guides will also point out the spots where many gather on certain days of the year when the sun hits a certain place and either illuminates the The Intihuatana stone, described in English as "The Hitching Post of the Sun," (on the southern hemisphere's summer solstice) or casts no shadow at all due to the sun being directly above the stone (the spring and fall equinoxes), hence "hitching" the sun. My guide also had a backpack full of fun things that he would pull out to show us along the way. At one point, he offered us some coca leaves (the plant that they make cocaine from) and we politely declined.

There is a lot to see on your own too. There are llamas and alpacas (to be honest I can't tell the difference between them) that wander the premises and graze freely. There are also lots of walking trails to explore — you can actually hike all the way up to Machu Picchu and camp along the way. The journey takes about three days. There is nothing more incredible than standing at the top of the city and looking down; you feel as if you are on top of the world.

But Machu Picchu isn't the only site to see in Peru, far from it in fact. I visited some lovely villages in the Inca Valley, where I ran into some local kids coming home from school while I was exploring. We came across each other in a small field with a lone cow and a pigsty. We chased each other around for awhile until the little girl climbed over the fence into the pigsty. I chose not to follow; it was during moments like this that I really wish I spoke Spanish.

Most people in Peru are

very religious, and I was lucky enough to be there during their Easter celebration. Everyone in the town gathered together in a procession carrying a statue of Jesus. There was lively music and lots of joyful celebrations all around.

Unlike in America, Peru does not have an Easter Bunny. I asked the women behind the desk at my hotel about this and she gave me a puzzled look.

I explained that the Easter bunny was like Santa Clause, except he was a rabbit. Looking back on it, my explanation probably caused more confusion.

Cuzco, the colonial city, is another beautiful sight to see. It also happens to be 10,800 feet above sea level, so to avoid getting altitude sickness you should end your trip there. When Pizarro arrived in 1534, he built Spanish style buildings on top of Incan ones, and, when you expose the foundation of the buildings, you can still see the Incan structures underneath. Incan building methods are very unique because they didn't use any mortar to stick stones together — they carved them so exactly that they fit together like puzzle pieces. Another interesting aspect of all this is that they were able to carve the stones without bronze tools, leading some people to speculate that the Incan structures were actually created by aliens.

Peru is a great place to go to try new foods. I ate guinea pig and alpaca. Guinea pig tastes just like chicken and alpaca is a dark meat which tasted like a weird steak to me. But as always when you travel, be very careful about the food that you eat because it is very easy to get sick. My Dad got really sick from eating an undercooked hamburger. But as long as you can tell that something has been cooked well, don't be afraid to try it!

If you would like to study in Peru, CIEE offers a program in Lima (the capital) for students of many different majors, from engineering to philosophy, who speak Spanish. And check out <http://www.travel-amazing-south-america.com/> for some tips about traveling through South America. Also look at <http://www.studentuniverse.com/travel-guides/travel-like-a-student/destinations/travel-to-south-america/> for tips and budget options specifically for students.

Have fun, and don't forget to try some guinea pig!



Carter Banker
Travel Columnist

DESSERTS

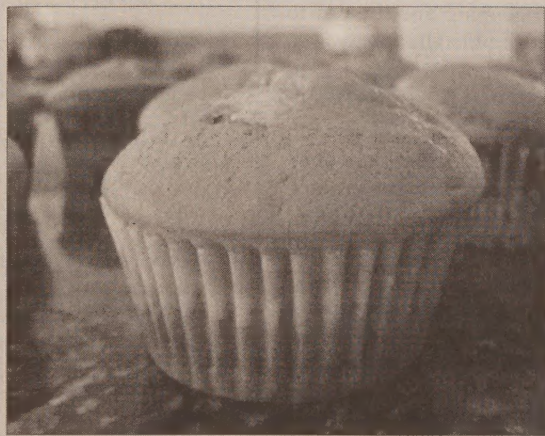
Rainbow Cupcakes as a colorful and easy dessert

As much as I love cooking meals, baking is much more fun for me. I love passing out my baked goods to friends and watching their reaction to the treats. The reaction to these were especially great because, after peeling back the wrapper, you can see that these are not just normal cupcakes; they're

rainbow cupcakes!

These are so pretty and cool to make! This is a technically easy recipe — just the same as making any cake.

Personally, I like making everything from scratch, but if you don't have the time and still want to impress your friends, you can make this recipe with cake mix and store-bought frosting, as long as you follow the food-dye instructions.



COURTESY OF ALLISON BORKO
Swirl separately dyed cake batter in cupcake cups for kaleidoscopic designs.

This part is really fun because you can really do whatever you want. Rainbow order is really pretty, but really any color combo looks good. Also, if you put the colors in, you can swirl the batter with a toothpick and create patterns too!

9. Cook cupcakes for 15-20 minutes in the oven. Check with a toothpick to see if they're ready!

While they were baking, make the frosting.

Buttermilk Frosting Ingredients:

- 1 c. butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 c. Confectioners sugar,

vanilla.

6. Evenly separate the mixture into 6 bowls.

7. Using food coloring, dye bowl a different color of the rainbow red, orange, yellow, green, blue or purple (on the back of the food coloring packages they tell you how to make each color, so you can make cool colors like turquoise or just be creative and experiment).

8. Line cupcake sheets with cupcake liners (I made around 24 normal sized cupcakes and four big cupcakes). Using spoons, layer each color starting from either red or purple and moving up.

layer each color starting from either red or purple and moving up.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Blend the sugar, butter and eggs in a small bowl.
3. Mix the baking powder, salt and flour in a large bowl.
4. Pour the sugar mixture into the baking powder mixture.
5. Add 1 cup milk and 1 tsp



Allison Borko
Food Columnist

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

Rove interrupted

At the MSE Symposium on Tuesday night, Karl Rove, former adviser to President George W. Bush and current Fox News commentator, faced a slew of verbal interruptions to his speech from members of the Occupy Baltimore movement. The protesters decried Rove's influence on White House foreign policy, rebuking him as the driving force behind "Occupy Iraq" and "Occupy Afghanistan." Rove quickly shot back: "if you believe in free speech... then you demonstrate it by shutting up and waiting until the Q and A session." After almost incessant heckling and what a University official called "organized disruption," Rove finally finished his speech.

This page, while sympathetic to Occupy Baltimore, emphatically disapproves of these actions.

Interrupting Mr. Rove's speech at the Symposium is a gross trespass upon the Constitutional right to freely voice one's opinion. To truly support free speech is to support all speech, especially that which is disliked. This fundamental doctrine is summed up best by the famed description of Voltaire's conception of freedom of speech: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

This is absolutely integral to the functioning of our democracy. This nation was founded on the ideal that government can only function with the consent of the governed. And for such a type of self-government to truly prosper, the people must be knowledgeable about the ideals to which they are consenting. If the populace is only privy to the speech with which it agrees, however, then the civil discourse necessary to educate is stifled. Democracy, in sum, simply cannot last. What is born instead are the principles of tyranny, despotism, and au-

tocracy — a government out of touch and unconcerned with the ideas of the body politic.

Furthermore, this type of disruption not only injures democracy, but it also hurts the Occupy movement and our chance for civil discourse as well. If it continues to ignore the ideas of its opposition, the Occupy movement risks the chance of falling from an organization of intellectual reform to one of intractable idealism, losing any credibility once afforded it. If the Occupy movement becomes just another hyper-polarized and unswerving radical group, constructive reform and compromise in this country's politics simply fall by the wayside.

Finally, we must keep in mind that Mr. Rove came to Hopkins to take part in an academic endeavor, which according to MSE's site, intends to "present and analyze issues of national importance to thousands of students." The theme of this year's speaker series is "America's Boundless Possibilities: Innovate, Advance, Transform." Students have had the opportunity to hear ideas presented from such Democratic powerhouses as Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Senior Advisor to the President David Axelrod.

If Mr. Rove's conflicting opinions aren't allowed a position in the "marketplace of ideas" that is the University, then we as students pay the price. The values of the University and the fundamentals of academia require the perseverance of a crucible of conflicting discourse from which students can formulate opinions of their own. Occupy Baltimore's attempt to preclude both sides from giving their version of the story, in effect, is to rob students of the opportunity to attain a knowledgeable opinion on the most pressing issues of our time.

Maintaining covered grades

This page is troubled by the Academic Council's movement to eliminate the freshmen covered grades policy. Hopkins's covered grades policy is unique and has been in existence since at least the early 1970s. Hopkins can be a relatively tough and pre-professional school, and the covered grades policy helps mitigate these issues by allowing students time to adjust to the academic intensity while exploring new intellectual horizons. This is especially important for the numerous international students who require time to adjust to living in the United States, let alone attending school here.

The covered grades policy is so unique that students have cited it as a reason they choose Hopkins over other alternatives. Far from improving Hopkins' academic quality, disallowing covered grades might actually deteriorate it. Since President Ronald Daniels has not yet revealed his decision on the motion, this page takes the opportunity to address some of the key arguments made for ending the covered grades policy.

First, some University officials are concerned that the covered grades policy creates the impression that Hopkins students are especially grade competitive and the professors ruthless graders. However, it seems more plausible that the covered grades policy actually mitigates Hopkins' reputation for being challenging and tough. Moreover, in shaping University policy, the quality of Hopkins' academic program should take priority over the public's perception of it.

Second, it is argued that freshmen who perform well in their first semester are harmed by the covered grades policy. While this may be true to some de-

gree, the case is exaggerated for several reasons. Students still have the option to reveal their first semester freshmen grades on their unofficial transcripts and resumes — and few employers request more. Also, students who wish to transfer to another university or apply for a scholarship are allowed to have their grades officially uncovered. Lastly, students who perform well in their first semester can receive Dean's List honors to mark their achievement. If the University deems that the policy is still harmful to the high performers, then it should give freshmen the option to uncover their grades before the end of the fall semester.

Third, the paternalistic argument is made that even though students may be in favor of the covered grades policy, it harms them by encouraging bad study habits. But as young adults, students should be able to choose for themselves what is in their best interest. The student body is overwhelmingly in favor of the covered grades policy and it would be unfortunate if University officials imposed a change out of a desire to protect.

Fourth, the best argument put forth is that the covered grades policy encourages freshmen to overload, getting their toughest classes out of the way fall semester. While this may be marginally true, the policy also encourages students to discover their academic interests, extracurricular activities and the surrounding community. This is a trade-off worth making since Hopkins can be very pre-professional and tracked. The covered grades policy provides healthy balance to Hopkins's rigorous academic program, and it would be detrimental to students' intellectual and social experience to abandon it.



CATHERINE GUENTHER/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Letter

Beware biased rhetoric in news reporting

"Obamacare" is a derisive term used by Roger Ailes's propagandists on Fox News to mock the Patient Protection and Af-

fordability Act.

Unless it is part of a quote, a partisan term like that does not belong in a News article.

I am disappointed that The News-Letter would allow this Newscorp style reporting onto its website.

—Peter Sicher

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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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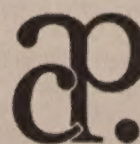
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The Gatehouse
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**Special Comment:
Karl Rove**

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Hopkins elitism illuminated at MSE

By CARRIE RESNICK

I am not here to tell you how you should feel about the Occupy movement, Karl Rove, free speech or the rights of protestors. Those are all important topics, which are subject to individual opinion and should not be preached about by a freshman. But the Karl Rove protests did reveal a campus-wide issue that does need to be addressed: the feelings of elitism among the Hopkins student body.

There was plenty of anger after the Rove protests on Tuesday. Most of the anger was not directed at the ideas the protestors held or that Rove's speech could not be listened to uninterrupted. The anger was not divided by political affiliation. No, most of the anger was at the protestors for bringing shame to the Hopkins name and over the fact that people from the outside world had brought their issues into the Hopkins bubble. The protestors acted disrespectfully, which many students saw as negatively affecting the reputation of Hopkins. For example, during the question and answer session, many questions began with an apology to Rove for the outrageous and embarrassing behavior of the protestors, an idea that continued in many Facebook status updates and discussions following the event.

Many of the protestors were from outside of the Hopkins student body and, according to many Hopkins students, should not have brought their problems to our campus and our event, whether it was open to the public or not. When Elizabeth Goodstein, one of the MSE Symposium co-chairs, took the podium to try to calm the audience down, she told the audience to stop acting disrespectfully because they were there to hear Rove speak. And those Hopkins students who were involved with the protest had no right as Hopkins students, who by nature of attending Hopkins are privileged and part of the elite, to be fighting with the 99 percent. The joke Twitter account @hopkinsproblems tweeted after the event, "If you pay \$60,000 a year in tuition, you're simply NOT the 99 percent."

First of all, it is shameful to our entire community that the foremost concern of so many students is the reputation of Hopkins. Reprimanding the protestors because you do not agree with their ideas or methods or debating their ideas and methods, is, to me, completely acceptable; these actions would show engagement with the world

and critical thinking. Ignoring the content of the ideas of both the Occupy movement and Rove to pay attention to how Hopkins looks to the world shows shallowness and ignorance on behalf of the student body. There is a world beyond Hopkins, in which the only thing that matters is not the reputation of Hopkins. The treatment of the outside population during this event is even more elitist and tragic. Just because somebody does not go to Hopkins one, does not discredit their ideas, and two, does not mean that they need to stay out of our campus. The protestors did not feel that Rove should have been paid to speak by Hopkins, which is why they protested. Just because this was a Hopkins event does not mean that it is only relevant to Hopkins students. The opinions and wants of the students should not necessarily take precedence over those of the non-Hopkins population, simply because we go to Hopkins and they don't. This was a public event, part of a symposium meant to bring speakers to the area, not just to bring speakers for the delight of the Hopkins body.

During the first mic check, Rove yelled to the protestors, "no one appointed you!" In response, one audience member said, "that's the point!" The point

of the protestors was to make a statement, even though they were not the powerful authority figure being given the stage. When the general Hopkins student body looked down on the outside protestors, it was as if they were saying that they were not accepted.

Not being accepted to Hopkins does not make you a less credible, less worthy person, and being accepted does not give you the right to look down on others. Being accepted to this great university certainly speaks highly of your credentials, but it does not give you the right to act as though you are better than everyone else. In fact, along with acceptance to Hopkins comes an obligation to be engaged in the world and give back to a world that has allowed you such as a privilege. Or at least it should. Hopkins students, do not embarrass yourselves by looking down on the rest of the world and not caring about real world issues. You are only proving Karl Rove right about how arrogant at least part of the audience at his speech was.

Carrie Resnick is a freshman History and Political Science double major from Sharon, Mass.

Hey Occupy, Rove deserves the first amendment, too

By BO TAO

I, like many of my liberal friends, do not agree with the actions of Karl Rove, this week's MSE speaker, during the Bush presidency. I will even contend that some of his actions would warrant arrest and incarceration should he be proven guilty in a court of law. The fact that some people decided to heckle and protest Rove's speech, however, is simply reprehensible and disruptive. I will attempt to explain why in this situation, the protestors, who were from Occupy Baltimore, were in the wrong.

Rove was an invited speaker and deserves the same respect any person should have. Above all, he is entitled to the same First Amendment clause of free speech as any other person. Some of the protestors would beg to differ. They would rather shout him down and force him from the po-

dium. Others have claimed that they were exercising their own free speech by heckling. The protestors are simply wrong if they think they can do whatever they want at a public forum. Since Mr. Rove was the invited speaker, he was given the opportunity to speak. By shouting at him, the protestors were simply preventing Mr. Rove from exercising his first amendment rights.

In addition, many protestors said that they were entitled to free speech since this was a public forum. Yes, this presentation was open to the public, but not on public property. Unlike public property, in which people can demonstrate at their own will, private property has a different set of rules. In essence, property rights trump free speech. Private universities, such as Hopkins, have special rules when it comes to engaging in on-campus protests. I would have no problem if the protestors demonstrated on the Quads or in front of Shriver. However, their free speech rights end when it comes to the closed doors of Shriver, where people are expected to sit through Mr. Rove's speech and ask questions afterwards. If the protestors contacted Hopkins administration about the rules, I'm sure they would have received a reply with what they can and cannot do.

The student body and the protestors should have let Mr. Rove finish his speech. Then during the Q+A session, they could have asked him any question and waited for the response. I am glad that the majority of Hopkins students decided to be civil. I applaud those students who told the protestors to shut up or get out. This event was a Hopkins event. We went to it to listen to the speaker, not to hear a bunch of rabble. I would encourage the MSE Symposium to make security stricter in the future, such as checking J-cards, to ensure that there would not be a situation where Rove was harmed in any way.

I had been sympathetic with the Occupy movement since its formation. However, after seeing firsthand what happened, I cannot believe in the hypocrisy of these protestors. Most importantly, their actions discredited those students who actually had challenging questions for Mr. Rove. If Occupy wants to succeed, it must respect the rule of law and not let mob rule be its guiding force. What Occupy displayed at the event is truly shameful.

Bo Tao is a junior Public Health major from Md.

Uncivil discourse, a right to speak and be heard

By VICTORIA SCORDATO

It was a little after 8 p.m. on the Homewood campus when Karl Rove, former deputy chief of staff and senior adviser to President George W. Bush, took to the stage of Shriver auditorium to deliver the final MSE presentation of the semester. While the few dozen protestors camping out on Decker Quad might have indicated that Rove was a controversial choice for MSE, how controversial a choice was yet to be fully understood. This soon became apparent when a protest broke out during Rove's speech. Due to the protestors, all in all, the night was an uncomfortable, visceral and ultimately revealing experience.

The protestors, for their part, probably went about expressing their disagreement in the wrong way. The organizers of the event graciously allowed them to protest outside of Shriver and that should have been the extent of it. Bringing the protest into the hall not only disrespected Rove, but also the students who earnestly wanted to hear what he had to say, and the organizers of MSE, who worked hard to bring a balance of perspectives to campus this semester (David Axelrod, Barack Obama's former Chief of Staff, spoke last week). Their attempt to silence Rove was a de facto attempt to rob students of the opportunity to hear both sides of the story. Any intelligent conversation should involve both sides calmly articulating their point of view, but no part of this interaction could be considered intelligent.

Rove was hardly patient with the protestors, meeting their accusations of murder and corruption with accusations of his own. "Fascists!" he yelled at one point. "Buffoons!" he shouted at another. While this would be a mildly understandable response from someone unaccustomed to such vocal opposition, Rove is a seasoned political operative, well acquainted with both criticizing and being criticized. To employ such outlandish and unintelligent rhetoric in response to the protest was both disappointing and embarrassing. Even before the protests began, Rove decided to open his speech with a disparaging impression of former President Bill Clinton. One of the

most influential political figures of this century should be above taunting, be it a former President about his "know it all" tendencies or a college student about his suit.

While the behavior of both Rove and the protestors was disappointing, it was also, on some level, expected. The most interesting and revealing reaction was that of the audience, which was made up primarily of students and parents clearly unprepared for a fight. When the initial protest broke out people were annoyed, but as the protest intensified so too did the reaction from the audience. During the course of the speech some cheered for Rove and booed the protestors, some even resorted to use of their middle fingers. But once the questions begun it was clear there were many vocal Rove opponents (aside from the protestors) in attendance. Most questions were highly accusatory and some even elicited cheers from the audience when Rove appeared to be stumped or evasive.

This shift would indicate that students didn't support Rove himself, but Rove's right to speak. What they desired, it would seem, was an intelligent conversation about the validity of different political ideologies. But after the event, Facebook blew up with reactions from students, many of whom condemned the Occupy protestors as "stupid," "uncivil" and "idiotic." Ironically, in an attempt to condemn the protestors these students sunk to their level. Just like the protestors condemned Rove for his behavior and refused to hear his point of view, students are now condemning the protestors for their interruption and unilaterally deciding that their points are "dumb" and not worth considering.

Maybe the stakes are too high, maybe our differences are too great, but it's a sad day when Hopkins can't host a civil discourse about the state of our country. If anyone truly desired an intelligent conversation about the political or economic situation they would rise above the rhetoric and let everyone have the chance, to quote Rove, "speak and be heard."

Victoria Scordato is a sophomore Political Science major from Bethesda, Md. She is a contributor to The News-Letter.

Protests against Rove are a step in the right direction for U.S.

By FABIO PALACIO

Last night we had an interesting character come out to Hopkins as part of our Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium. The theme of this symposium is "America's Boundless Possibilities." From the start of the year, I found this theme interesting. We are in the middle of an international institutional crisis. Our country is finding itself increasingly isolated and increasingly powerless in a global order in transformation, in challenge from so many angles.

So, what does this have to do with Karl Rove and the awesome display of autonomy by a few protestors? Everything.

Karl Rove represents an era in this country's history that people who see the world like I do remember as the destruction of American ideals. That presidency unfortunately witnessed one of the saddest events in human history on 9/11/2001. However, instead of coming out of that tragedy with strength and integrity, we finished our own destruction. We allowed the people behind this event to turn us into monsters. Our government responded with a most violent attempt to reestablish its dominance in a reality that could no longer house our power. The consciousness of our people was hijacked and flown into a fiery and deadly explosion with Iraq and Afghanistan in our cross-

hairs. We were convinced that the only way we could protect our identity from the evils of the world was to police the rest of the world. We didn't have to change; we could bomb the rest of the world into submission!

With the help of Karl Rove, we not only destroyed our identity, we also lost 4,485 American troops, 10,000 Iraqi troops and over 100,000 Iraqi civilians (with some reports suggesting over 600,000 dead Iraqi civilians). The numbers go on and on to reinforce the fact that we destroyed a country because we could not bare the possibility of losing our power; we would rather kill civilians and our own identity than lose influence in the world.

This is why I was so distraught when I saw Karl Rove get a standing ovation on Tuesday night. How could my fellow educated students stand in respect and defense of a man who was a key player in all this? How could they allow a man who architected the hijacking of the government and the murdering of innocent people for the sake of power feel welcomed in our campus? This is where the relation with the Occupy movement becomes clear.

The preceding explanation of the polarization of power can be applied locally as well. Our government was at first an institution that aimed to represent the people; it aimed to capture our identity, harness its power and use the ensuing energy to create

a wonderful America. However, our actions here and abroad have changed the local landscape as well. We no longer provide for most of our people. The very forces that used to create jobs have used their global influence (which they go to war for) to move their energy outward. They have neglected their own people and care only about the reproduction of their status. They "work" merely to maintain their position of relative power in this country. No longer do they use their power to develop their home, but rather to prevent people from seeing the subordination upon which the local institutions are based. They infiltrated the media, education, government, the police, even our language. They dominate our thought. They have hijacked our consciousness. They tell us we are still working for an American dream that does not exist. They tell us we need them but all they do is use our resources for their own plunder. They keep us out-leveraged in this economic system so that we are afraid to say "no more." How many of you struggle simply to keep your mind focused on this paper as you read it? How many of you can't seem to think about one thing for longer than 5 minutes? This is no coincidence, but rather a historical phenomenon.

Fabio Palacio is a senior Sociology and International Studies double major from Ridgewood, N.J.

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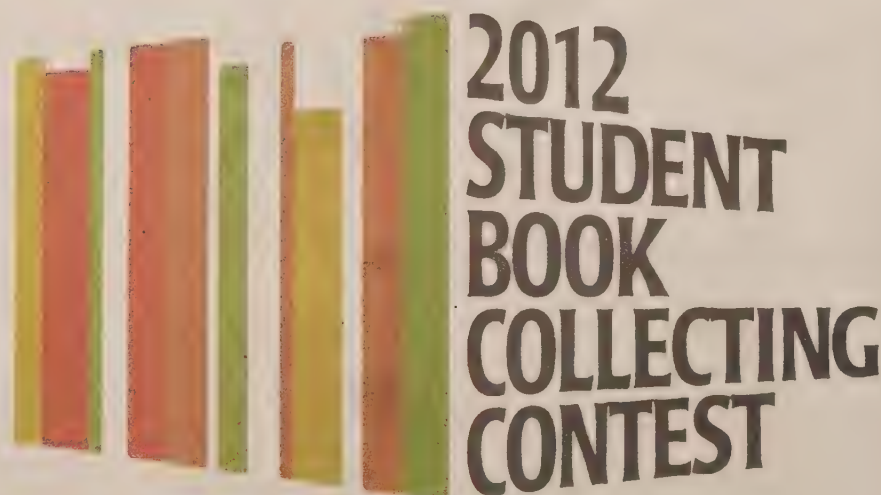
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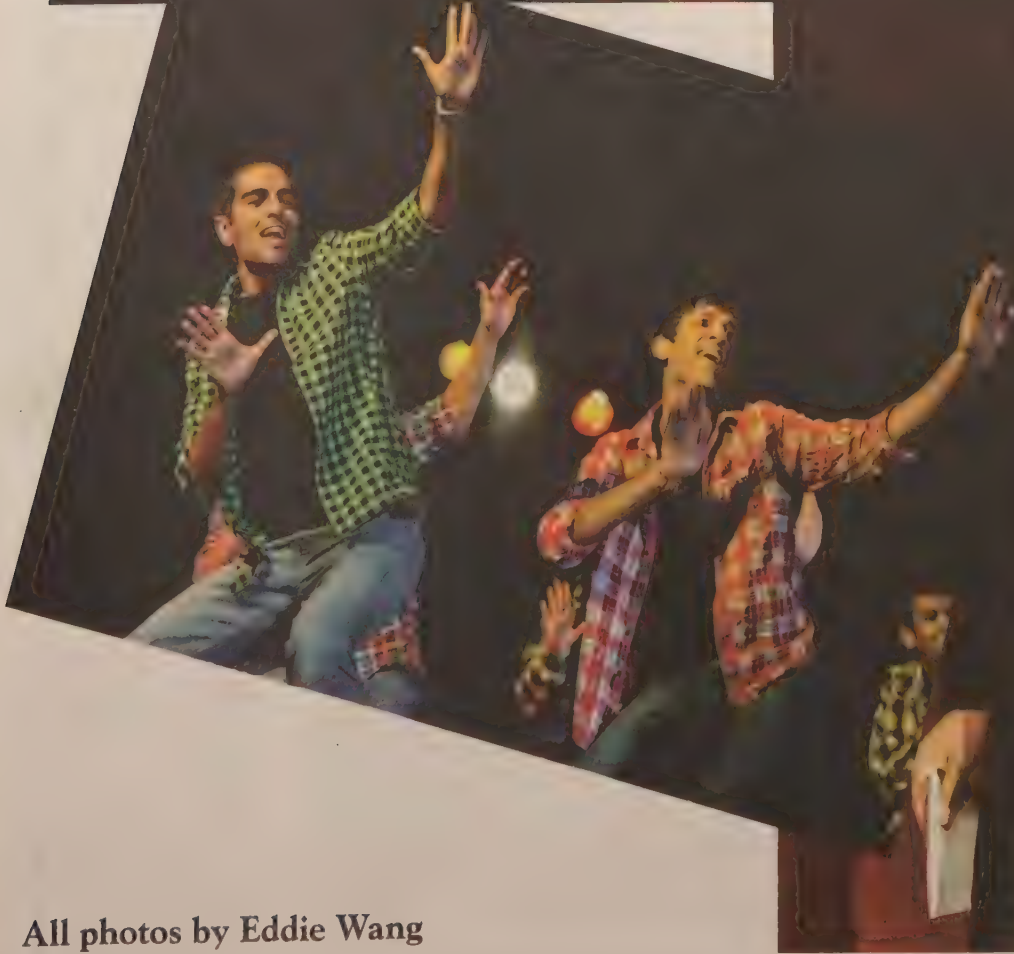
The Johns Hopkins
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NOVEMBER 17, 2011



Culture Show 2011



All photos by Eddie Wang

YOUR WEEKEND Nov 17-20

Celebrating Thanksgiving in Baltimore

With just a week left until Thanksgiving, it is all that has been on my mind.

Twenty minutes into class and I inevitably start daydreaming about home and seeing my family, about the glorious meal I have to look forward to (capped off, as always, with a thick slice of pumpkin cheesecake), and, of course, about the much-needed five days off from school.

Sometimes we skim over Thanksgiving, especially with Christmas around the corner.

But Thanksgiving is all about food and family, and I do not think you could ask for more from a holiday.

If, however, you find yourself staying at the Hop this Thanksgiving, not to worry.

Whatever you do, do not skimp just because you are still at school. There is plenty to do to make your November 24th a day to remember.

Cook a Thanksgiving meal from scratch

Now is the time to get creative with those McCoy and Charles Commons kitchenettes.

If you are a foodie and love to cook, great. There is no better time than Thanksgiving to go on a cooking binge. Go crazy — make sweet potatoes, homemade apple pie and, of course, a turkey. You will have a field day.

If, on the other hand, the only thing you have ever “cooked” is a slice of bread in the toaster, well, you will probably get a lot



Get together with friends and cook a Thanksgiving meal from scratch, complete with turkey and stuffing. WESTMICHIGANMOMMY.COM

of great stories out of the whole thing.

Either way, why not make your own dinner? Then you can invite any friends still around the Baltimore area and celebrate together.

Vicky Plestis Bridging Baltimore

And just to make your dinner extra special, stop by the 32nd Street Farmers Market the Saturday before and pick up some fresh apples, pumpkins and sweet potatoes.

A good meal always starts with good ingredients.

Or, of course, you could just go out to dinner.

There is a shocking number of restaurants open in Baltimore on Thanksgiving.

But that would be the easy way out.

Head over to the Inner Harbor

There is always a lot going on in the Inner Harbor come holiday season.

For reasons I cannot quite understand, Baltimore's Thanksgiving

Parade happens before Thanksgiving. This year, it will be on Saturday November 19.

If you do get a chance to go though, it is great. Pratt Street is buried in floats and balloons. Clowns, marching bands and even Santa are all thrown in the mix too.

Also, for the first time ever, Power Plant Live is running a holiday show starting that same day up until New Year's Eve. So if you get a chance to visit that area, stay a while and check it out.

Running three times a night on weekdays starting at 6 pm, it features a \$400,000 light, laser and music show and sometimes even fireworks.

It is bound to be great, and it will put you right in the holiday spirit.

Watch the Ravens game

Admittedly, I am not the biggest sports fan.

But for those of you who are, or for those of you just looking for a chill Thanksgiving, this probably could not be more perfect.

The Baltimore Ravens are playing the San Francisco 49ers on Thanksgiving Day.

So flip on the TV, full-out tailgate, or, if you can, get tickets for the game.

Really, nothing could be more American than football.

After Thanksgiving is over, you are still going to have two more days until people start making their way back to school.

Take advantage of that time when (hopefully) you do not have any work and head over to 34th Street in Hampden.

Every holiday season, the residents on 34th Street go absolutely crazy with Christmas decorations.

They call the tradition the “Miracle on 34th Street,” in reference, of course, to the classic Christmas movie. Decorations go up the day after Thanksgiving, and they are beyond over the top.

So before you get buried back into routine and schoolwork, make the trek to Hampden, walk off some of your Thanksgiving meal and start bracing yourself for the next round of holidays.

Build a gingerbread house and win a dinner for ten

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

Staying at Hopkins over Thanksgiving and don't know what to do?

Why don't you get together with a group of friends and build a gingerbread house?

Sponsored by the Student Traditions Board and The Hopkins Club, Hopkins is hosting its second annual Gingerbread House Competition as part of this year's 'Lighting of the Quad' ceremony, and everyone affiliated with Hopkins is invited to participate.

Simply design and decorate a gingerbread house by yourself or with a group of friends.

The group with the winning entry will win a dinner for ten people at The Hopkins Club.

The Hopkins Club is located on the grounds of Homewood Campus, and they feature foods such as smoked fish, Maryland crab soup, and pan roasted

veal tenderloin.

Second and third place winners will also receive prizes, which are announced as of yet.

All winning entries will be displayed in The Hopkins Club for the duration of the holiday season.

Registration is online at tinyurl.com/8yjrpk, and all structures are due on November 30 — the night of the lighting of the quads.

More information will be provided via email after contestants register.

While making a gingerbread house from scratch is not a simple task and may require several sessions to make the dough, bake the pieces and assemble the house, Thanksgiving Break is the perfect time to get started.

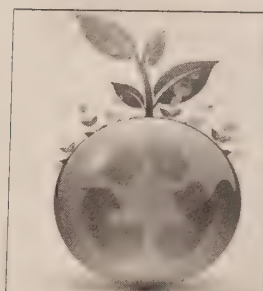
So if you aren't sure what you can do after the Thanksgiving food has been put away and the sleep caught up on, perhaps you might want to consider baking and frosting for the competition.



Hopkins is sponsoring its second annual Gingerbread House Competition. MCCORMICK.COM

Calendar of JHU Events

Thurs. Nov. 17



NEXT:EDEN.COM

Green Carnival
11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Gilman Atrium

There will be face-painting, games and crafts, food and more at this carnival celebrating going green at Hopkins. You can even bring your clutter and give it away in exchange for free things.

Panel on Premed Ethics
7:30 p.m.
Gilman 50

This panel, consisting of various professionals from dif-

ferent aspects of premedicine, will be grappling with questions of ethics and issues that applicants may face in med school interviews or on the reformed MCAT.

Yojimbo Showing
7:30 — 10:30 p.m.
Shriver Hall

Come to Shriver and view Kurosawa's classic samurai film on 35 mm.

Fri. Nov. 18

JHEC Presents:
Disney - Your Childhood Remixed
8 — 9 p.m.
Mattin Center SDS

The Johns Hopkins Entertainers Club presents their glow show, complete with fire spinning outside.



MEDIABISTRO.COM

Mental Notes 2011 Fall Concert
8 — 9:30 p.m.
Bloomberg Auditorium

The Mental Notes' fall concert, featuring parodies and original songs, will have a “middle school dance” theme. Admission is free.

Sat. Nov. 19

Ataxia Picnic
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Glass Pavilion/
Great Hall

Support the Ataxia Ambassadors and raise money for the Clinical Research Consortium for Spinocerebellar Ataxias. There will be free food and t-shirts and performances by various student groups.

The Last Mountain
7:30 — 10:30 p.m.
Mudd 26

This movie will show you what coal companies don't want the public to know.

Calendar of B'more Events

Thurs. Nov. 17

Celtic Harp and Story
7 — 9 p.m.
Chesapeake Arts Center

Patrick Ball uses his mastery of the celtic harp to combine story-telling, history and music into a concert.



BOMBAYHARBOR.COM

The British Are Coming!
7:30 — 9 p.m.
Germano's Trattoria

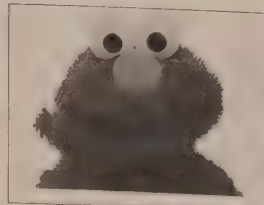
Students from the Baltimore School for the Arts will be working with their British counter-

parts at Showdown Theatre Arts UK to produce a cabaret in preparation for their production of “Working,” which will debut in Guildford, UK in the spring. Admission is \$10.

Fri. Nov. 18

Being Elmo
All Day
The Charles Theatre

Puppeteer and Elmo creator Kevin Clash will be available for a Q&A session after a screening of a documentary about Sesame Street and the Jim Henson Workshop.



BUY-ELMO.COM

“Deja Two” Show
Weekend
8 p.m.
Strand Theater Company

The Baltimore

Improvisation Group will be performing two back-to-back shows. Four troupes will be taking the stage each night on Friday and Saturday.

A Tribute to Charlie Byrd
7:30 — 9 p.m.
Germano's Trattoria

Nate Najar, along with Tommy Cecil and Chuck Redd will be performing in tribute to Charlie Byrd, a famous American guitarist in the 20th century. Najar will also debut selections from his new jazz album.

Sat. Nov. 19

Twelfth Night
2 — 5 p.m.
Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Come to watch one of three film versions of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: The 1996 film version, She's the Man or an animated version of the play.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Intercambio entices language lovers

By COLLEEN DORSEY
Staff Writer

Non-Spanish speakers, be jealous. The new *Intercambio* series at the Walters Art Museum in Mt. Vernon is fun, interactive and not to be missed — a welcome change from classroom language learning.

Most learners of a foreign language who aren't forced to speak the language outside of the classroom are plagued by a reluctance to do so, or a crippling shyness.

In the classroom, not everyone gets the chance to practice their speaking skills, either.

The Walters's new *Intercambio* event is composed of fellow learners who not only share the common goal of learning a language, but also a common love for art, which helps loosen the tongue.

This past Sunday was only the second incarnation of the fall series, which runs on the second Sunday of each month from October through May (skipping January), but the series is already popular and polished, not to mention free.

Each event runs from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., and is basically an interactive

Spanish-language guided tour featuring five or six different pieces throughout the Walters. The pieces are chosen based on a theme.

The guide and creator of the event, Andrea Vespoint, begins by giving a brief description in Spanish of the historical and artistic background of each piece. Pieces can be anything — a painting, sculpture, jewelry, etc. Vespoint then engages the attendees with questions in Spanish and encourages comments about the artwork.

So far attendance hasn't been high, with about 15–20 people of various Spanish levels attending each event, but an intimate group is well suited for conversation.

Vespoint, who is also the community outreach coordinator for the museum, started the program this past February.

One of her goals as coordinator is to expand the demographic the museum attracts, and Vespoint thought language might be good grounds on which to build new community connections and attract the Spanish-speaking and immigrant populations of Baltimore

SEE WALTERS, PAGE B5

The Vocal Chords mix it up at fall concert

By ELLEN BRAIT
Staff Writer

The Vocal Chords put on their Annual Fall Concert in the Bloomberg Auditorium on Nov. 11th at 8 p.m. The show's theme was "The Cranberry Love Game," and each member of the Vocal Chords portrayed a distinct character.

They sang a total of 10 songs that ranged in both genre and quality.

The first was "Jaded" by Aerosmith. The soloist, Megha Sharma, started out strong, but her voice died off while attempting to reach high notes later on in the song. What she lacked in high notes, she made up for in enthusiasm, as she danced along to the song and worked the audience.

Following their first song, The Vocal Chords introduced their featured A Capella group, UMBC's Mama's Boys. The group appeared disorganized, but the audience's assumptions were soon proved wrong when UMBC's first soloist stepped up to the microphone.

His voice was amazing and his own personal humor added greatly to his rendition of "F*** You" by Cee Lo Green.

Their performance dropped in intensity a bit in the middle when they sang "Rocketeer" by The Far East Movement, but they ended on another high note with "Secrets" by One Republic. Again, it was very unexpected. A small boy with punk inspired fashion who had blended into the background throughout the performance wowed the audience.

The Vocal Chords started back up with the introduction of their characters for their reality TV Show, "The Cranberry Love Game." They had the audience laughing and it added greatly to the show, as they introduced the clueless girl, the Asian hick, the self obsessed boy and girl, the boy who only wanted love and many more.

They then sang their next song, "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)" by Nine Days.



ANGIE PINILLA/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Vocal Chords performed song choices from Lady GaGa to OneRepublic to a selection from *Spring Awakening*.

The soloist Michael Van Maele was excellent. They followed that up with "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele.

The soloist, Zoe Cohen, did Adele justice as she belted out the lyrics and had the audience pumped up. Her voice grew soft at some parts but her overall performance was extraordinary.

The Vocal Chords's next song was very original. They sang a *Pirates of the Caribbean* Medley which had the audience in hysterics. At the end, two girls even had a "sword fight" with their high heels.

They took a short break from singing with a scene showing dates between their various contestants. It definitely added some much needed humor to their performance.

Their next song was a mash-up of Britney Spear's "Toxic" and Bitter:Sweet's "The Mating Game."

They attempted to mix things up by dancing throughout the song. Unfortunately, although it was pleasing to the eyes, it did not help with their singing. Having to focus on both dancing and singing took away from

the overall quality of the piece.

Following that they sang "Bullet From a Gun" by The Script. The soloist, Brad Foulke, did an amazing job with this song. When trying to reach the first high note, he had some trouble, but he quickly recovered and hit the remaining two, more than making up for his first attempt.

They followed that with "The Song of Purple Summer" by Spring Awakening before returning to another skit.

"Who have you chosen to give your cranberry to?" they asked each contestant.

There were more laughs to be had until the end when the character, who just wanted to find love, did not receive a cranberry. Luckily, a girl from the audience jumped up immediately, declaring her love, before jumping into his arms. The audience was more than satisfied with this turn of events.

They then jumped right into the next song, "You and I" by Lady GaGa. Megha Sharma was the soloist and did the song justice. It was much better suited to her than her first song, and it really showcased her unique voice.

She even had the audience clapping along by the end.

Their next song was "Cold War" by Janelle Monae. The soloist, Greco Song, did an amazing job. The Vocal Chords were enthusiastic and danced but to a much lesser extent than previously. It worked out much better for them, giving the audience something aesthetically pleasing to watch, but it did not interfere with the quality of the music.

Their final song was "This" by Darius Rucker. The soloist, Kevin Quinn, had an amazing voice, but sadly he was drowned out at times by the background singing during the chorus. Thankfully, throughout the rest of the song, he was loud and clear.

The concert ended with an encore. They sang "Rehab" by Rihanna, and five old members who had graduated joined in. This may have been one of their best songs yet as they all relaxed and had fun with it.

Overall, the concert was definitely a success! Although there were some rough moments, it was still a very enjoyable experience. Make sure to catch The Vocal Chords at their next concert.



COURTESY OF WWW.THEWALTERS.ORG

Guide and creator of *Intercambio* Andrea Vespoint presents a piece of art.

Mamet's American Buffalo explores American Dream

By ROB POWERS
Staff Writer

The Head Theatre at CENTERSTAGE is the place to go this month if you are looking to watch a classic American drama with a gritty masculine side.

The play is David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, the story of three men whose lives get entangled in a plan to steal a valuable coin and any other coins in its near vicinity.

You see, Don (played by William Hill) has just sold the coin to a man for \$90, no small sum by any means, but then he checks the book and decides it's worth much more. The *American Dream* is at the center of everything, of course.

One might think it should be an easy gig since the action takes place in the days before high-tech security systems and 9-11 speed-dials on cell phones.

But the characters make it hard on themselves. They're not all that smart and really not that organized.

Teach (played by Jordan Lage) worms into his position as Don's partner in crime; needing in on the action he spends his time on stage manically pushing the plan.

He insists, of course,

it'll be an easy heist — "10 minutes, tops" — reminding his friend of such universal common-sensisms like the fact that no one in all of history has ever bought a safe for their valuables without also writing the code down somewhere nearby and visible.

The audience might sometimes get the feeling that the heist will never happen; that no one will ever leave the junk store of a stage where the actors talk and pace around for nearly two-and-a-half hours.

But that's, actually, what

the play promises to be. And it's not necessarily a bad thing.

Anyone who knows Mamet should be unsurprised that the characters spend the whole production gabbing and bickering, and the set really is a junk store.

It's detailed, perhaps even more than necessary, by the diligent scenic designer Neil Patel.

The main set piece is a counter on the thrust stage, which features countless bobbles and assorted junk, all giving off a distinct flavor of classic Americana through a dust-smeared

glass display.

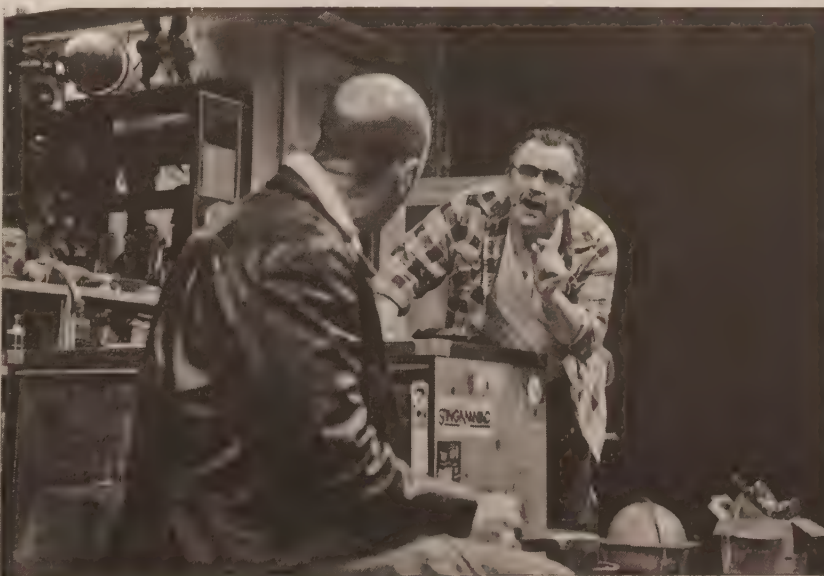
Considering the not-so-pretty message at play about the American Dream, it's an interesting statement.

It's one of many examples in the production of reasons to keep thinking after you leave, and reasons why *American Buffalo* is worth seeing.

The lighting was memorable without needing to be remembered.

Lap Chi Chu puts up a singular ceiling light, which floats above the downstage part of the set and creates a sense of con

SEE BUFFALO, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF WWW.CENTERSTAGE.ORG

William Hill, Jordan Lage and Rusty Ross on the junkyard set of CENTERSTAGE's production of *American Buffalo*.

This Single of the Week, "Time is like a Melody," comes from new-to-the-scene Danish band Pinkunoizu. The four band members, Andres Pallisgaard, Jaleh Negari, Jakob Falgren and Jeppe Brix, are all pharmacists from Copenhagen. This already quirky sounding band

only gets stranger.

Instead of pigeon-holing themselves into one or two genres, the band members prefer to describes themselves as "a group playing an exotic mixture of lo-fi, high-life, modern

composition music, nu-folklore, asian '60s pop and future post-apocalyptic underwater rock."

Pretentious? Probably. Interesting? Definitely.

"Time is like a Melody" is the first release from Pinkunoizu off Peep EP. This underground experimental group establishes early on in the single that they do not intend to sound conventional in any way.

The steady, slow and

clear electric guitar sound seems normal enough at first, but when the mellow, synthed up vocals kick in the song really begins to embrace the bizarre.

Throughout the song, I felt as though I was drifting through a psychedelic, ethereal mist — which I am sure is exactly what Pinkunoizu is intended.

The title is very appropriate,

as time seems to float away as the song progresses. And of course, the song already comes complete with a trippy, colorful, acid trip of a music video.

If Pinkunoizu sounds like anyone, the closest comparison would be MGMT or Passion Pit. Their songs make very little sense, but that could be the beauty of them.

Pinkunoizu has said they are "building soundscapes" with their music, not actual songs. As of now, it is unclear whether this is just affected, overly artsy, hipsterism or something more. Only time will tell.

— Rachel Schnalzer

Hot Singles on the Internet:
Pinkunoizu's
"Time is like a Melody"

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BMA gives string quartet a standing ovation

By BARBARA LAM

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Johannes String Quartet played at the Baltimore Museum of Art last Saturday, Nov. 12, as part of the Shriver Hall Concert Series. Consisting of violinist Soovin Kim, violinist Jessica Lee, violist Choong-jin Chang and cellist Peter Stumpf, the group took to the stage in a filled auditorium. They began by introducing the first piece,

"Homunculus," which was written for them by Esa-Pekka Salonen in 2007.

"[Salonen] was fascinated by the arcane spermist theory," Kim explained, "that within every sperm is a little man. Of course, then, there are many little men inside one man." This idea of "from creation, creation" was evident in the piece. The slurred bowings and multiple rounds created a sense of flow, much like sperm swimming.

The quartet very much deserved the opportunity to premiere and, in a sense, partially own "Homunculus"; the piece was perfect for them because it displayed their seemingly innate abilities in unifying their sound. In the middle of the piece, the quartet climaxed to a high-pitched chord that followed with a falling glissando — and even this unscripted slide felt perfectly coordinated. They passed melodies from one to another

flawlessly, creating a ribbon of sound that never broke. The best seat in the house, surely, would have been right in the middle of the four musicians.

The next piece was Ottorino Respighi's "String Quartet in D Minor." Despite the beauty of the music, the audience became restless halfway through the lengthy piece. "String Quartet in D Minor" did little to emphasize the musicians' skills. After intermission, the quartet ended their concert with Franz Schubert's "String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, D. 810, 'Death and the Maiden.'" The piece brought some liveliness back into the group and the audience.

Cellist Stumpf proved his graceful abilities during the playful exchanges between the cello and violin in the Andante con moto. Although Stumpf's solos were brief and rare, he shone every single time — even if he was just doing simple pizzicato. Kim led the group admirably on his Stradivarius and kept the concert light with his humor.

The final Presto of "Death and the Maiden" gave the Johannes String Quartet a chance to demonstrate their technical precision and passion, which the audience responded to with a standing ovation.

Breaking down the Breaking Dawn movie

It's that time of year again.

No, not Thanksgiving. Not Christmas, either. Not Hanukkah, not Kwanzaa. So far, all your guesses are wrong.

Breaking Dawn, the 4th and final installment in the *Twilight* series, premieres in America (Land of the Great and Bloody-fanged) this Friday, Nov. 18. Please don't assume this information means I'm urging you to go see this no-doubt awful movie.

In case you were wondering or living under a blissful rock this past, like, decade, *Twilight* is that book-to-movie series in which a pale, emotional teenage girl commits necrophilia with a pale, emotional but blood-sucking corpse.

There are other plot points that include super hot but jailbait werewolves, racial (read: vampire-werewolf-human) tensions, something about Rome, sex, pregnancy, and really,

really, really pedophilic werewolf luvin'.

All this in a single young adult series by some woman named Stephanie Meyer? Oh yes.

In any case, the whole franchise has made a but-

load of money off of some dudes named Rob Pattinson and Taylor Lautner.

No one knows if the female lead, Kristen Stewart, has helped the movie franchise make money.

As long as we're being honest here, I suppose I'll have to admit that I will most likely be forking over that \$10 to see this terrible hack of a film.

I don't know if I can defend myself in any way, shape or form, except by saying that I'm totally curious about how they're gonna pull off the vampire-baby-bursting-from-Kristen-Stewart's-uterus part.

Hooked?

Yeah, you, me and everyone else who mistakenly picked up the first book way back in 2005.

Ting Talks
Hsia-Ting Chang

COURTESY OF WWW.SHRIVERCONCERTS.ORG

The Johannes String Quartet played a unique repertoire at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday night.

The visual novel medium proves its worth on the battlefield of narrative arts

By ALEX MUI

Cartoons Editor

Last week The News-Letter introduced you to the visual novel; this week, Alex Mui continues by covering the history and creation of the medium.

The visual novel traces its roots back to the 1983 detective video game, *The Portopia Serial Murder Case*. *Portopia* stood out from other games of that era for its minimal gameplay and well developed storyline. It had the reader read slowly, think through puzzles and collect clues to solve the mystery. *Portopia* is regarded as an influential work by both the visual novel and video game industries for showing the possibility of creative storytelling these new media could offer. Though video games continued to focus on gameplay, Japanese writers realized the narrative potential.

Unfortunately, it would be a while before the advantages would be recognized. After *Portopia*, another video game genre was produced known as eroges, bishōjo or the dating sim. Any praise brought by *Portopia* was tainted by the adult games controlling the industry in the following years. Instead of adapting the medium for storytelling, companies decided to market to an adult audience by hashing out cheap, plotless dating games filled with mature scenes. This still haunts the medium today.

Up until the early '90s, the visual novel still used pixel art and remained closely associated with video games. It was when the company Leaf realized that the unique structure of the medium could be applied for storytelling that the industry began to differentiate itself from games. New work started using high quality, anime-inspired artwork and well-planned stories. With the focus now on visuals and storytelling, the term "visual novel" was coined.

Regardless, Leaf was still creating adult work, though this association may have been the spark that elevated the medium from smut to art. Leaf realized they could make the reader work for the adult scenes by framing them around creative storylines. Allowing the reader to

grow with the characters, has a more emotional payoff. In 1997 Leaf released *To Heart*. While classified as a dating game, it was innovative in that it focused more on making an emotional impact through story rather than adult content. Other writers soon began to realize the medium's potential.

Perhaps the medium's greatest pioneer is Jun Maeda, who grew up with a passion for reading and writing. One of the books that influenced him was *Hard-Boiled Wonderland* by Japan's great novelist, Haruki Murakami. This book influenced the story structure of Maeda's future work. In college he majored in psychology while writing his stories and composing music. Maeda went on to become the top writer and composer at the media company Tactics.

An idea sparked when Maeda learned of the success of *To Heart*. Using his knowledge of the human mind, writing and music, Maeda weaved together a new formula for the visual novel. In 1998 his creative team at Tactics created *ONE: To the Radiant Season*. *ONE* used beautiful visuals, expressive music, vocals and a reader experience that created a new type of work that focused on story and character interactions. *ONE* was hailed for its innovative techniques. Due to the industry at that time, the company had Maeda insert optional adult scenes. Maeda and his team soon left Tactics and formed their own company, Key.

With *ONE*'s success, Maeda utilized his formula to create a new piece. He crafted a story which would allow the reader to experience the story through the protagonist. This would make the reader more invested. The soundtracks composed evoked everything from calm nostalgia to heart-wrenching sorrow. The well-timed music combined with the beautiful visual artwork further emotionally moved the reader. In 1999 Key released its first work, *Clannad*, which sent major shockwaves through the industry. It was praised for its well-developed, emotional story and for making readers break down into tears. *Kanon* was the first work the public recognized as separating the visual novel medium from the

video game, elevating it to a new level of art.

Kanon proved that visual novels could allow for more diverse stories. Afterwards numerous companies produced all-ages work, focused more on story and eliminated adult content. Maeda released *Air* the following year, which was equally well received. *ONE*, *Kanon* and *Air* created a new genre known as *nakige*, the crying genre.

In 2004, Maeda's third work shocked the public. It was something never before seen in media. At 740,000 words, it carried the reader through a seemingly normal school plot that shifted between the mysterious setting of the Illusionary World plot. The story started off slow, allowing the reader to bond with the characters, gently setting them in with calming music before hitting them with an unexpected tragic event. Never before had a work reduced its readers to such soul-wrenching sorrow, then lifted their spirits to new heights with a heart-warming ending. This work, *Clannad*, has become synonymous with works like *Ulysses*, *Citizen Kane* and *Watchmen*. Like what those works did for their respective mediums, *Clannad* is considered visual novels's magnum opus for showing what the form could achieve, elevating it to the level of other forms of literature. Along with *Kanon* and *Air*, these works are regarded as visual novel's Holy Trinity.

While *Clannad* is a love story, it's an all-ages work not containing a single kiss, let alone the obligatory sex scene accustomed to most visual novels and Hollywood films. Yet it proved more emotionally powerful than works like *Titanic*, for successfully moving the reader without the forcing a reaction upon them. *Clannad* was adapted into an equally acclaimed anime series which has been called by critics a triumph of storytelling and among the greatest works ever told across all media.

Among the new works influenced by Key's Holy Trinity was *Ever 17: Out of Infinity*, one of the few visual novels released in America. It was well received for its complex storyline. The suspenseful mystery played

with the reader's perceptive; what the reader thought was a singular story is revealed to be two separate timelines. It helped prove the medium's worth in uniquely conveying narration.

One pioneer influenced by Key is Romeo Tanaka. He used the *nakige* formula to psychologically shock the reader with mind-bending plots, causing them to actively think while reading. One of Tanaka's famous works, *Cross Channel*, follows the protagonist and his friends into a world where they find themselves the only living beings. They construct a radio tower at school to contact others, but before completion one of the characters cracks and murders the rest. The protagonist then wakes from bed one week before the incident realizing the week is in a repeating loop. Having to relive the week and the murders, the reader is just as psychology affected as the protagonist. Each week plays out in a different perspective, allowing the reader to slowly solve the mystery.

Another figure influenced by Key goes by the penname Ryukishi, who had an idea for a murder mystery but found no suitable media that would evoke the reactions he wanted. He finally wrote it as a visual novel when he learned of Key's emotion-driven stories. With no company backing him, Ryukishi alone wrote and self-published *Higurashi no Naku Koro ni* (*When They Cry*). Due to his crude art, potential pub-

lishers were not interested, so he sold it to local game shops and at comic conventions. To his surprise it sold out fast. It was popular for taking the *nakige* formula and replacing the emotional accept with elements of horror. Sounds like cicada cries created an eerie atmosphere, coining the new subgenre, the sound novel. *Higurashi* was later adapted into manga, video games, a popular anime series and two live action films. Ryukishi's success despite the unattractive artwork proved that innovative storylines matter most.

His next work, *Umineko*, was released in eight parts from 2007 to 2011. *Umineko* is an island murder mystery inspired by *Then There Were None*. After the first murders a witch appears, revealing she committed them with magic. The protagonist refuses to believe in magic, resulting in a contest between the two. Each of the eight stories resets the events of the day with the witch committing the murders in a different fashion, taunting the protagonist to explain them with human means. The story is a deconstruction of the mystery genre with characters representing different detective tropes and rules, much like what *Watchmen* did for superheroes. The story is metafictional with the protagonist representing the reader and the witch the author. This builds on Ryukishi's previous work, in which he sees the story as a game between the reader and author, both taking part in the narrative process. *Umineko*'s an-

swer is never given, forcing readers to figure out the solution alone.

These works allowed other genres to use the visual novel structure. A famous horror example is the Lovecraft-inspired *Saya no Uta*. *Saya no Uta* uses the *nakige* structure but rather than make the reader cry the revolting music and grotesque artwork to creates a sick and queasy feeling. The story is considered among the scariest, most twisted works of horror.

In 2011 Key released *Rewrite*, created by the pioneers Maeda, Ryukishi and Tanaka. The visual novel's great pioneers together for the first time; a fitting way to celebrate the decade following *Kanon*'s creation. The visual novel has proven itself to be a successful narrative art form. Use of visual artwork, music, character-driven plots and innovative storylines make it uniquely successful at using emotions as an element of storytelling. Despite its accomplishments, it still remains relatively unknown in the West. This may be caused by its negative association with adult dating sims, its confusion with video games and graphic novels and the difficulty to buy them outside Japan. New experimental works like *Narcissu* are making them accessible online to Western audiences, while visual novel fans are also creating original English works like *Katawa Shoujo*. And the rise of e-books, tablets and iPads may present a new path of introducing the world to this narrative art.



The anime series *Clannad* is regarded as the visual novel's equivalent to *Citizen Kane* and *Watchmen*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST

Angels & Airwaves

ALBUM

Love Album Part Two

LABEL

To The Stars

RELEASED

Nov. 8, 2011

Angels & Airwaves's just-released album *Love: Part Two* is the second half of the larger *Love* album, an album that definitely exists thematically and sonically as one whole collection of 22 songs but that also divides neatly into its two distinct parts.

Love: Part Two has a more polished, impressive resonance with catchier beats and more interesting sounds — it's essentially *Part One* but better. It's pure Angels & Airwaves, full of their ambient rock sound, soaring electronic melodies and wide array of instruments.

The album is a mix of anthems ("Surrender") and love songs ("My Heroine"), all examining and celebrating the power of human connection. The album brings back some of the warlike drumbeats of *We Don't Need to Whisper* and the uplifting mood of *I-Em-pire* but stands on its own as a new, unique release dominated by diversity of sound

and almost overwhelming movement.

The songs bring in and then drop countless different sounds, instruments and melodies, especially in brief instrumental intros and outros of 20 to 30 seconds.

It's difficult at times to listen to because, when a melody is especially attractive, it's frustrating that it quickly disappears. But it is also enjoyable to move in and out of so many diverse sounds because they are, in the end, weaved together beautifully.

Despite the multitude of sounds and melodies populating each song, the album is not chaotic, although on the first listen this is the impression. Subsequent listens reveal the patterning and strength within the tracks.

Listening to the album with headphones makes the instrumental distinctions extremely apparent and intensifies the movement of the songs, setting the individual melodies into a quasi-physical realm around the listener's head. Any exhaustion induced by the hectic movements of melodies is alleviated by all the rep-



etition you could ask for in the choral segments.

Even for listeners who truly enjoy Tom DeLonge's voice, some of the most captivating parts of the album are the instrumental segments, such as in the opening track "Saturday Love" and at the end of "Moon As My Witness." Some meander, some rise and fall, but each is a welcome pure-music minute or two.

Structurally speaking, the album never pauses between tracks. Many tracks finish off with an instrumental piece and carry it through into the beginning of the following track.

Even when two consecutive tracks don't meld melodically, there is no blank pause, no between-track white space.

This makes the album structurally holistic and not shuffle-friendly; it's meant to be an intense, seamless sonic experience, and a long one at that, clocking in at about 48 minutes (the entire *Love* album totals about 102 minutes).

"Anxiety," the album's first single and music video, contains a strong, catchy keyboard component and an intriguing windchimes-esque intro melody that returns for the final instrumental minute

of the track. DeLonge plays with his lyrics, chopping words into staccato vowels ("ti-i-me," "di-i-ie," "ins-i-ide"). The music video visually represents the organized chaos and bombardment of diverse sounds that make up the song and the album, a seemingly frenzied but beautiful system that somehow works despite itself.

"Surrender," the album's second single, is conducive to sing along, with the growing intensity of the repeated lyrics "I, I will not surrender" and a background chant of "oh's. DeLonge sings, "When God falls fast asleep / the kids still dance in city streets / from the White House lawn to the Middle East and all around / I'm just sayin' that this time I feel it now" — and in this song the listener really does feel it. "All That We Are," the final song on the album, kicks off with a four-note descending piano melody and has a lovely slow build. It's the slowest and quietest song of the album, which isn't to say it's quiet. After three swelling minutes a guitar joins the song and amps it up, effectively representing the synthesis of rock guitar sounds and electronic sounds that communicates and connects in this song and throughout the album. The track is a great ending to an album that works to express the diversity of human experience and the threads that connect us all.

— Colleen Dorsey

Museum engages in language exchange

WALTERS, FROM B3

She has had requests from parents for child-oriented *Intercambio* events, but she is still working on recruiting bilingual children — "Children will learn better from each other," she explains.

For now the monthly event is best suited to adults, who will certainly be able to learn from one another, though there are hopes that this will change in the future.

The speaking pace is plenty slow and well-articulated besides, making the event intelligible for a wide range of Spanish-speaking levels and especially good for learning new vocabulary.

The atmosphere is exceedingly friendly and engaging; Vespoint asks questions of the attendees, welcoming their opinions as well as any historical knowledge they can contribute to the discussion.

The vocabulary practiced is not useless outside the art or museum context; there is a lot of physical vocabulary dealing with objects, shapes, colors and materials that can be applied to daily life.

Take a break from finals in a month or check out an *Intercambio* event next semester.

No registration is needed — just show up in the lobby of the Walters and have fun practicing your Spanish.

interesting and engaging presentations.

October's event was a little more successful in that regard. Vespoint says that there were two or three native Spanish speakers. The group was able to divide into smaller groups, which facilitated discussion. Vespoint is hoping for more native Spanish speakers to attend the series in the future.

This Sunday's theme was vases (*floreros/jarones*), featuring a carved agate vase with the Greek god Pan's face on both sides, a realistic duck-shaped vase, a Greek amphora and French and Chinese vases.

Last month's theme was death and dying; Vespoint is still working on deciding the theme for Dec. 11th's *Intercambio* event.

It takes Vespoint a minimum of five hours to prepare for each event, as she personally selects pieces according to her chosen theme and does extensive background research on each piece in order to give



COURTESY OF WWW.CENTERSTAGE.ORG
Rusty Ross and William Hill star in Mamet's *American Buffalo* production

David Mamet's quirky play suits CENTERSTAGE

BUFFALO, FROM B3

finement.

For all except the audience in the front (who were likely staring up at a single overhead light bright enough to illuminate an entire stage) the result was gold, especially when one also remembers the sky-light effect of the streaks of subtle blue.

Mamet's writing is notable for, as most people put it, transforming the crudest part of American vernacular into a sort of poetry.

And the actors, who all have experience in New York and elsewhere around the country, wield the unique language expertly.

The most energized performance is Lage's, who bolts around the set, with every gesture as grand as the hopes he has for himself.

This is no surprise, since he was a founder with Mamet of the Atlantic Theater Company and performed in the Tony-winning revival of his Glen-garry Glen Ross.

The production has its drawbacks, especially if

BSO celebrates the all-American aesthetic

By BRITTANY LEUNG
For The News-Letter

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) never ceases to amaze with its thematic programs played with beautiful intensity and pristine quality.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the BSO performed an All-American program with Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and *Old American Songs*, Edward Collins' *Tragic Overture* and George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*.

There is nothing more special than seeing a performance live — whether the music is familiar or unfamiliar tends to be irrelevant — where the music resonates within the warm atmosphere of the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

To put the cherry on top, Maestra Marin Alsop finishes off the way in which the music comes to life on stage through her energetic yet controlled conducting that translates to the precise and lyrical playing of this performance.

While the humor in the "I Bought Me a Cat"

children's song in *Old American Songs*, performed by the orchestra accompanying the brilliant baritone William Sharp (where Sharp playfully imitates multiple barnyard sounds) was thoroughly enjoyable, as were the contrasting alternations between the thematic material of war and peace in *Tragic Overture*, the favorites of the night were the first and last pieces.

The well-known and well-loved *Appalachian Spring* produces scenic images of pastoral settings through open intervals, simple melodies, long and smooth tones and yet catchy, playful rhythms that undergo variations or eventually change into new rhythms as well as nuances in slow and fast tempos — all qualities that are cleverly and precisely captured by the BSO.

Although Copland grew up in New York, his music rings with the American west, as well as rural influences that not only depict images of the American frontier, but also celebrate the first intrepid settlers who forged paths

into America.

Specifically appealing in *Appalachian Spring* are the clarinet solos that introduce Shaker dance tunes.

These frequently connect the piece together, particularly through the clarinet's interactions with the string players.

Additional melodies and harmonies are put into variations and develop throughout the piece, only to return again to the hall echoing and resonating with pastoral images of the "affirming scenario that drew on the pioneer spirit that built the country."

Fans of Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and *Old American Songs* would surely enjoy other popular pieces by him: *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*.

Gershwin's *An American in Paris* parallels the spirit of Copland's *Appalachian Spring* in that they both celebrate the entrance into a new world: an American finds himself fascinated when placed into the atmosphere of Paris.

Yet, instead of the rural images we envision in Copland's piece, we picture the vivacity of Paris and the liveliness of the streets as well as French atmosphere through central jazz sections.

Unlike Copland's music, Ger-

shwin purposely works multiple instrumental parts into the piece so that each part is not as simple or clearly distinguishable.

Just as the American is overwhelmed with the sounds and excitements of Paris, we too are happily overwhelmed with the rush of sounds from the brass, strings, percussion and woodwinds playing simultaneously with each other.

In comparison to the wind ensemble version, the orchestral version actually gives the piece better justice in adding greater color and life through more instrumental parts.

Even in a bluesy section of the piece where the American suddenly feels homesick, we still feel the rhythmic undertones that eventually transition back into the spirit and power of Paris life.

Through the similar yet contrasting pieces of Copland and Gershwin, the audience could not help but generate good feelings from the pleasurable, imaginable and enthusiastic program performed by the BSO.

The BSO has an interesting repertoire for the rest of the season. A concert that is sure to please includes the one on April 13-15, when the BSO will perform Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture*, Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, and Stravinsky's *Firebird*.

Can you get enough of the "—skys" in one concert? Additionally, if you are here in Baltimore next summer, the BSO will conclude the season with one of a favorite Stravinsky piece, *The Rite of Spring*.



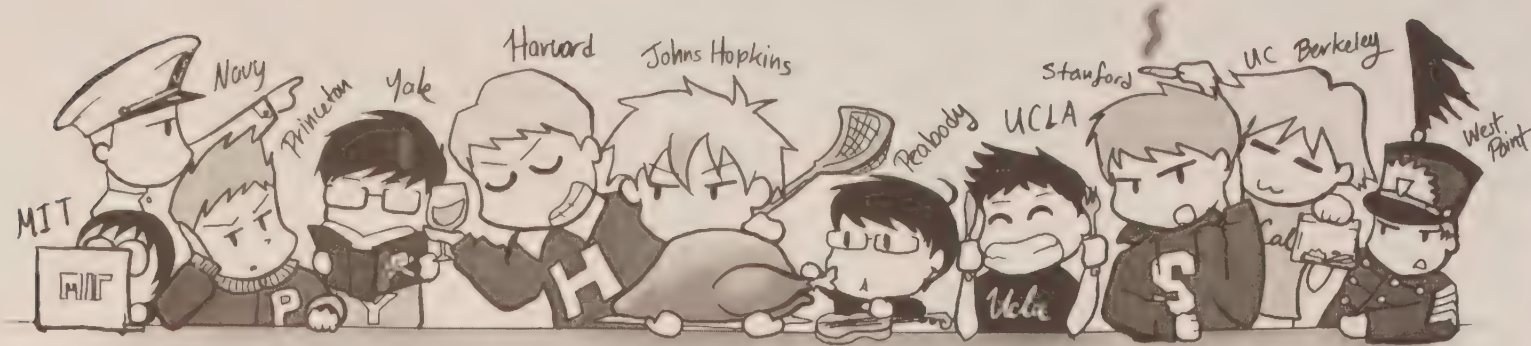
COURTESY OF WWW.BSOMUSIC.ORG
The Baltimore Symphony Hall gave a rousing performance of its All-American program.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade

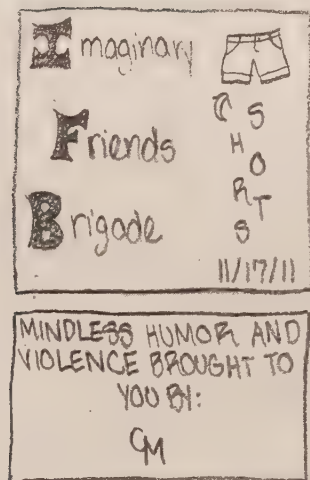
By Kevin Stoll Li

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Class Registration

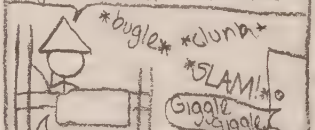
By A. Kwan



For a school at which I feel it's reasonable to assume most students have at least a shaky grasp of basic physics, I see an awful lot of social infractions that could have been avoided through fairly simple applications of these principles. Allow me to illustrate with Newton's First Law of Motion.



By the First Law, an object at rest tends to stay at rest, especially when that already sleep-deprived object has a 9 AM exam.



That is, unless some total asshole of an unbalanced force acts upon it by holding a cardboard box jousting tournament in the hallway right outside the object's dorm room from 12 to 3:30 AM.

Additionally, an object in motion tends to stay in motion, especially if that object is already late for class, perhaps a result of oversleeping thanks to the previous evening's stirring corrugated reinforcement of the best bits from "A Knight's Tale", complete with music.



That is, unless some twit of an unbalanced force in front of it decides to test his multitasking skills and either meanders along at ~3 miles per hour, grossly misspelling their text, or comes to a dead stop and sufficiently blocks the object's passage until their missive has been meticulously proofread and successfully sent.

By recognizing these situations, you too can fulfill your goals as a scientist and make the world just a little bit better to live in. Plus, you can avoid the obligatory equal and opposite reaction of the aforementioned object, like playing a perpetually looped mix of obnoxious show tunes and Christian screams at full volume from 9-12:30 Saturday morning. Because I think we'd all rather avoid that. Don't you?



Thanksgiving Word Search

By Katie Mann

Words can be Forward, Backward or Diagonal

Autumn	November
Black Friday	Shopping
Break	Sleep
Family	Thanksgiving
Friends	Tofurky
Travel	Turkey

G	D	C	Y	K	R	U	F	O	T	E	S
S	N	D	N	H	N	W	A	Y	T	R	P
F	A	I	O	Y	U	L	M	D	F	G	H
R	L	E	V	A	R	T	I	C	B	R	O
I	K	A	E	I	D	C	L	F	R	Y	P
E	S	T	M	Y	G	V	Y	M	R	U	K
N	N	V	B	S	D	S	C	R	E	L	I
D	M	V	E	R	L	D	K	B	P	W	G
S	U	M	R	C	E	E	W	N	F	T	A
D	T	K	N	J	Y	A	E	V	A	H	D
G	U	H	L	S	D	G	K	P	N	H	T
Y	A	D	I	R	F	K	C	A	L	B	T

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Draw or Write for Cartoons!

WANTED: Artists, graphic artists, humor and joke writers and cartoonists for the Graphics and Cartoons Section. Can you draw comics, create digital art, write short stories, humor articles, jokes or puns or want your art published in *The News-Letter*? Then we want you. For more information, contact: cartoons@jhunewsletter.com.

Also see these cartoons in full color at: jhucartoons.deviantart.com.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Toyota develops robots to help patients walk

By CATIE PAUL
Staff Writer

Patients paralyzed in one leg may someday be able to walk and balance again with the help of robots developed by Toyota. Toyota designed the robots to assist paralyzed patients with their rehabilitation and to help their caregivers move them more easily. On November 2, Toyota unveiled four prototypes of these robots at an event in Tokyo.

The four types of robots are known as the Independent Walk Assist, the Walk Training Assist, the Balance Training Assist and the Patient Transfer Assist.

The purpose of the Independent Walk Assist is to help patients who are paralyzed in one leg. It consists of a leg brace that can be attached to a paralyzed leg. The brace is also attached to a computer, and the patient walks on a treadmill-like machine while wearing it. The technology contained in the leg brace allows the patient to bend the knee as he or she walks. The device can also measure the angle of joints in the leg, allowing physi-

cians to track the patient's progress more easily. The brace can support a patient's weight and be adjusted as the patient gains strength in the leg.

The Walk Training Assist focuses on helping people who have difficulty walking. It has a similar setup as the Independent Walk Assist — a leg brace is attached to one leg. The brace uses sensors at the foot and thigh to detect the intention to walk and then to monitor any movement in the patient's hips while walking. The technology in the brace helps the knee swing, moving the patient's leg forward. Its goal is to eventually get full movement through the hips and thus enable the return of natural walking ability. As in the Independent Walk assist, adjustments can be made as the patient's strength returns.

Toyota researchers created the Balance Training Assist for patients who struggle to keep their balance when standing up. The device has two wheels on which patients have to balance, and looks similar to a Segway. While standing

SEE ROBOTS, PAGE B8

Hopkins research explains pupil constriction

By LINDSEY HUTZLER
For The News-Letter

One of the most irritating reflexes to us as humans is the glaring light that awakens us after a hard night of studying, or causes our eyes to water after a doctor shines a penlight in them. It has become a well-known fact among the pre-medical community here at Hopkins (and even most of the general population that avidly watches Grey's Anatomy) that when a doctor shines a light in the eyes of an unconscious patient to assess reflexes, it gives some insight into brain activity, as it controls constriction of the pupil. Yet researchers at Hopkins have shed light — no pun intended — on whether the brain does, in fact, control this reflex.

Amphibians and fish have long been known to have photosensitive irises, which do not necessitate brain function in order for their eyes to react to light. Yet mammals, such as ourselves, have been suspected of needing our gray matter for this reflex, until the team, led by King-Wai Yau, a professor of Neuroscience and Ophthalmology at the Hopkins School of Medicine, found that melanopsin, a specialized pigment that is located in the retina's ganglion cells, are responsible for the pupillary light reflex.

Researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine collaborated with Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital Boston, California Institute of Technology and the Universität des Saarlandes in Germany in their experiment. They used irises that had been isolated from mammals and attached a meter to determine the force of the muscle that controls the pupil (the sphincter muscle) when light was shined on the pupil. The majority of nocturnal animals, with the exception of the owl monkey and bush baby, showed a response



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By knocking out certain genes in mice, researchers were able to identify important factors in pupil constriction.

to light, while most diurnal animals did not. The researchers believe that animals that have begun to follow the sleep-wake cycle of humans lack the ability to see at night (much like we cannot see in the dark), and propose that nocturnal animals have more cells in the eye that are sensitive to lower amounts of light exposure. Bright light might cause damage, and the pupil's reflex may have been an adaptation to protect against vision loss.

Yau suspected that melanopsin was involved in this mechanism, as he had worked with mice in the past that he had genetically engineered to lack the protein. The researchers tested irises isolated from the mice to see if they would respond, and found that they lacked the pupillary light reflex. Mice that had been genetically engineered to lack other pigments known to capture light all retained the reflex.

Protein Lipase C, an enzyme that interacts with

melanopsin, is known to be responsible for the same pathway in the vision system of flies. The team then tested this in mice that lacked the enzyme, and found that they also lacked the response, making it a prime suspect along with melanopsin that is responsible for the reflex.

Although the local reflex in the eye itself has been identified, the team still has questions relating to which proteins in the muscles cause the contraction.

New drug effectively treats cystic fibrosis

By MICHAEL YAMAKAWA
Staff Writer

A new study has confirmed that Ivacaftor, a bio-available drug taken orally, is an effective treatment for patients with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that affects thousands of people worldwide. It is diagnosed in about a thousand patients in America per year. Although close to 10 million people are carriers, the gene that constitutes expression of cystic

fibrosis-associated proteins is recessive, meaning that the gene must be passed down by both parents to be expressed. Found in the long arm of the seventh chromosome, this gene is responsible for mutant proteins that interfere with our cells' ability to regulate chloride concentration.

The protein, called cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR), is an epithelial ion channel that manages absorption and secretion of salt and water in the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, sweat glands and pancreas. Patients with cystic fibrosis carry a mutation in the gene, which not only alters the function of the protein, but also reduces the amount of the protein actually expressed on the cell membrane, where ion channels typically reside.

When the channels are mutated, and the chloride concentration is not balanced to physiologically optimal measures, the mucous that is produced by the body becomes thick, dry and gluey. This blocks the digestive enzymes necessary to degrade food for our digestive system to absorb into our body for health and reduces lung capacity as the mucous layering in the lungs become thick.

Cystic fibrosis patients typically experience what's equivalent to the breathing capacity of having only one lung. Unfortunately, as the symptoms progress, these patients begin to breathe with half the lung capacity, then none at all.

Prior to recent investigation of Ivacaftor's potential to treat cystic fibrosis,

patients had to ingest pancreatic enzyme pills, supplementary vitamins and as much calories as possible because the flow of digestive enzyme is blocked.

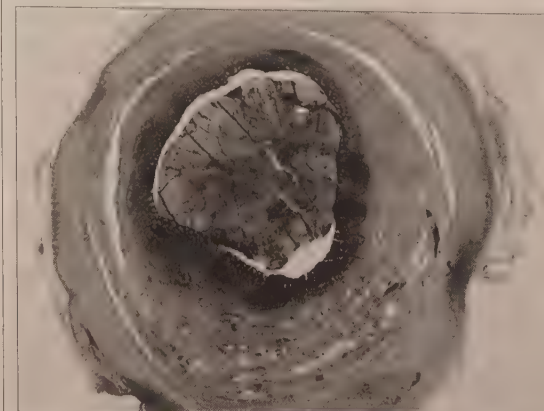
They also had to abide by stringent measures to loosen the mucous in their lungs by performing manual chest therapy at least twice a day. During each therapy session, a member of the family or a doctor pounds, or "percusses," on the fourteen different regions of the body to loosen the mucous and help the patient cough it up.

These patients have hope for a new type of therapy, which is orally consumable. The Ivacaftor is designed to increase the time of which the CFTR ion channel is left open for chloride ions to flow through.

The new Ivacaftor study was conducted from June 2009 to January 2011. With a sample of 161 cystic fibrosis patients, some of whom were treated with Ivacaftor and others with a placebo, the study confirmed an overall decrease in chloride in the sweat of patients who received the drug.

Dysfunction of the CFTR protein is characterized by salty sweat. Salt is composed of sodium and chloride ions. Thus, the decrease in chloride in sweat indicated a normalized regulation in chloride absorption.

The discovery of Ivacaftor's effect on the CFTR gene is a milestone in the field of cystic fibrosis. As more studies confirm the effectiveness of the drug, Ivacaftor can serve as an effective drug to ameliorate cystic fibrosis symptoms.



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Cystic fibrosis patients produce very thick mucous that impedes breathing.



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The walk assist helps patients bend their knee in their paralyzed leg.

Global warming contributes to melting permafrost

By ELLE PFEFFER
Staff Writer

One of the harshest realities of global warming is its potential to feed into itself. A recent study by researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California suggests that melting permafrost may affect the atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration.

The team studied this phenomenon in two permafrost samples from Hess Creek, Alaska, which had been frozen for 1,200 years. "Permafrost" refers to soil that has remained frozen

over a large period of time — thousands or hundreds of thousands of years. The soil remains filled with the original dead plants and organisms it once contained, providing an excellent history of the sample's location. In this case, the experimenters thawed the samples over a period of days at a temperature of 41 degrees Fahrenheit to stimulate the natural melting of permafrost globally due to atmospheric warming.

The microbes within the permafrost are the danger; when the soil melts, these inhabitants begin to break

it down, releasing greenhouse gases. Some of the gases contain carbon and like methane in particular, are very dangerous once they are rapidly released into the atmosphere. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, methane is "over 20 times more effective in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period." By contributing to emissions of methane, these microbes are only furthering global warming, which increases the likelihood that more permafrost will melt. Thus, this becomes a cyclical problem.

The other main concern with the melting permafrost is its carbon content: Arctic permafrost is believed to contain approximately 250 times that of the United States' 2009 greenhouse gas emissions. As it thaws, the permafrost has the potential to emit that carbon into the atmosphere.

Through metagenomics, the study of genetic diversity without using intact organisms, the researchers were able to analyze DNA contained in the soil sam-

ples. They sequenced the DNA, and after two days and seven days observed the genetic contents and the concentrations of any emitted gases.

In respect to gas concentration, the researchers observed a swell in methane over the first two days, which then dropped significantly by the seven-day mark. The carbon dioxide concentration, however, continued to increase. The DNA evidence supports the concentration data; DNA indicating methane-producing bacteria existed throughout the experiment, but methane-eating bacteria was found to increase over the progression of days.

In the process of sequencing, the researchers found one unknown methane-producing microbe that was "fairly abundant" at two percent of the entire sequenced DNA, and they composed its draft genome, a genetic blueprint. Though very different from any previously discovered organism and still unnamed, this microbe is likely a big factor in methane production.

While it depends on environmental factors like the speed of thaw and the quantity of organic content in the soil, the methane-eating bacteria could counteract the emissions from methane-producing bacteria. However, no neutralizing force was clearly seen acting against the carbon dioxide in the experiment.



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As the permafrost melts, microbes previously frozen will release more greenhouse gases.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Robotic devices help paralysis patients

ROBOTS, FROM B7

on the device, they play video games that strengthen their muscles. The three games available on the machine are tennis, soccer and basketball. The machine displays these games on a monitor, and the patient plays them by shifting his or her weight on the device, slowly improving balance.

The last robot Toyota introduced was the Patient Transfer Assist. This is the most advanced of the robots and the only one not designed for rehabilitation. The purpose of this robot is to make it easier for caregivers to move paralyzed or bedridden patients. The device has a mobile platform and weight-supporting arms. Using the arms, the robot can transfer the patient onto the platform and then transport him or her somewhere, such as from the bed to the bathroom. Toyota researchers

tried to simulate the experience of being carried by the machine to that of being carried by a human being.

Toyota's robotics department focuses on incorporating robots into many avenues of human life, such as to solve medical, personal transport and manufacturing problems. The department has also produced robots unrelated to the automobile industry, such as one that plays music. Toyota is not the only automobile company invested in robotics—Honda has already created a walking assist device similar to the Independent Walk Assist robot.

Fujita Health University Hospital collaborated with Toyota to develop the robots by providing feedback on what kind of medical information the robots would need to monitor. Toyota hopes to start selling the robots in 2013.

By MAHA HAQQANI
Staff Writer

With the promising applications that carbon nanotubes might have for our daily lives, there exists the possibility that they may yet be harmful to us in some manner. Scientists at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, School of Medicine, Department of Chemistry and Kennedy Krieger Institute have recently found that multiwalled carbon nanotubes, which are toxic, are not taken up by enterocytes, the absorptive cells lining your intestines.

Carbon nanotubes are allotropes, one of the possible physical states, of carbon with a cylindrical nanostructure, and exist in two main varieties: single-walled and multi-walled. Since their inception in the early 1990s, carbon nanotubes have been closely studied for their unique properties and potential applications in nanotechnology, electronics, optics and other fields of materi-

als science.

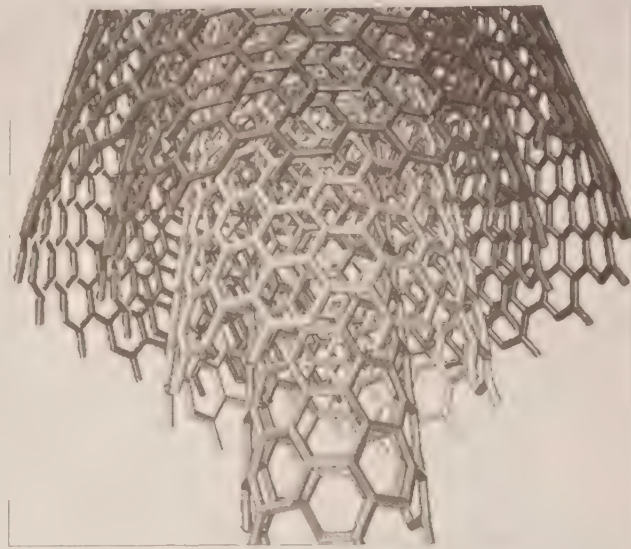
Due to the range of prospective applications, availability of carbon nanotubes in the market is expected to rapidly increase in the next few years. It will then become likely that carbon nanotubes may be used in occupational settings, or even in medical technology, creating the possibility that humans will be exposed to the material. For this reason, it is important to evaluate the risks of carbon nanotubes for human health.

Information on their toxicity is limited, although previous in vitro studies on lung cells have reported inflammation, increased oxidative stress, deleterious action on a cell's genetic material and cell death. In vivo studies have found increase granulomas, fibrosis, or inflammation in lung cells exposed to carbon nanotubes.

Their toxicity and uptake via the intestine, however, is not a thoroughly explored subject. The aim of this study, published online in the *Journal of Toxicology and Environment Health* on November 2, was to shed some light on this matter by characterizing interactions between the human intestine and two types of multi-walled carbon nanotubes: pristine (p-MWCNT) and oxidized (o-MWCNT).

The p-MWCNT are hydrophobic and unstable in aqueous solutions, and the researchers hypothesized that this might enhance their ability to interact with cell membranes. The o-MWCNT have a higher surface oxygen content and are more easily dispersible in water.

The study made use of the Caco-2 cell line as a model for human intestinal cells. The Caco-2 cell line is a human intestinal cancer cell line, and when fully differentiated, the cells exist as a single layer and



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Carbon nanotubes that are composed of multiple walls are toxic for intestinal cells.

express features similar to those of human intestinal enterocytes.

Researchers obtained the Caco-2 and RAW 264.7 cells from the American Type Culture Collection and exposed them to the multi-walled carbon nanotubes for transmission electron microscopy analysis. They exposed the cells apically to the oxidized or pristine nanotubes for 24 hours. The researchers decided not to use artificial surfactants to increase dispersion of nanotubes for uniform cell exposure, as this would not be similar to typical intestinal cell exposure. The experiments were repeated in the presence of natural organic matter, which has surfactant-like effects on multi-walled nanotubes.

Cells were prepared and examined on an FEI Technai 12 TWIN or a Hitachi 7600 transmission electron microscope. Cells displayed many of characteristic properties of enterocytes, such as microvilli, basolateral basement membrane and glycogen. The cell monolayers also had developed tight junctions and electrical resistance.

Researchers evaluated cell viability using cytotoxicity assays, which measured lactate dehydrogenase activity. The did not observe significant differences in activity between control Caco-2 cells

and those exposed to the nanotubes, both with or without organic matter. No significant cytotoxicity was observed in the RAW 264.7 cells exposed to multi-walled carbon nanotubes using the lactate dehydrogenase activity assay either.

Examination of the cells using transmission electron microscopy also showed that even when the nanotubes were visible at the cell surface, they did not appear to penetrate the cell surface or be engulfed by the cells. The only difference was revealed using ultrastructural analysis: Microvilli colocalized with the nanotubes were slightly damaged or even missing. However, neither oxidized nor pristine nanotubes were observed to be taken up by Caco-2 cells.

The study found little to no evidence of multiwalled carbon nanotubes being taken up by human intestinal enterocytes. On the other hand, the nanotubes were taken up by the macrophage RAW 264.7 line. While the findings of the study do not support the idea that multi-walled carbon nanotubes are toxic to intestinal enterocytes, further research into the effects of these nanotubes on living cells throughout the body is necessary before they can be deemed safe for a wide range of uses in human settings.

Elderly kidneys viable for donations

By ERICK SUN
Staff Writer

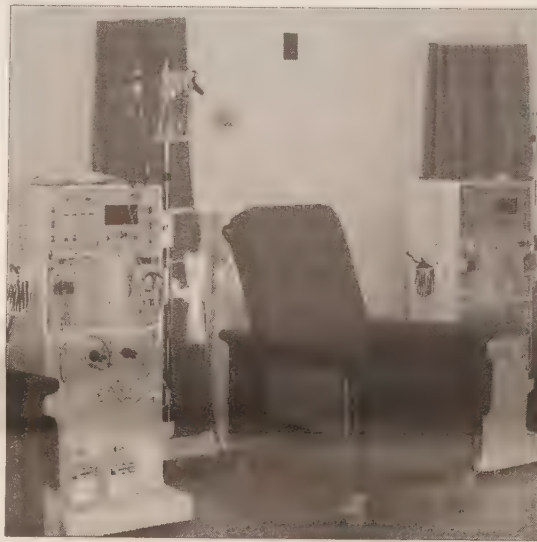
All across the nation, patients with kidney disorders have only one option in order to live a normal life without undergoing dialysis multiple times a week: obtaining a kidney transplant. Oftentimes the transplanted kidney comes in the form of deceased donor kidney transplantation (a situation where a kidney becomes available from an individual who has volunteered their organs for donation upon their death). However, this option has countless variables such as whether the deceased individual will match the patient's blood work or whether the patient is even eligible for a transplant at the time of the donor's death.

Another, more controlled, option is that of live kidney donation from someone who is willing and able to donate one of their two functioning kidneys. However, the issue with live kidney donation is that oftentimes the availability of people willing to donate a kidney is scarce.

As a result, researchers have been attempting to increase the pool of potential donors by various methods such as "incompatible kidney transplantation, kidney-paired transplantation[...and the use of organs from donors who may have previously been excluded." One group of individuals that had previously been excluded from donation is those in the age group over 70 years, an exclusion that may be unwise based on a surprising new finding.

This area of kidney donors was the topic of study for a group of researchers from the Hopkins School of Medicine looking to get a more accurate picture of whether kidneys donated from those over 70 were comparable to kidneys from younger donors, more specifically those in the age range of 50 to 59. While previous studies had looked at the viability of old-age donor kidneys, the Hopkins team took their approach differently, ensuring strict controls in an attempt to eliminate factors leading to kidney failure that were not a result of the age of the kidney.

The study found 219 people between the ages of 70 and 84 who had donated a kidney between 1990 and 2010. Over that same time frame there were 16,062 kidney donors between the ages of 50 and 59. From this data, the researchers looked at kidney failure



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With an expanded donor pool, patients will require less time on dialysis.

and patient death over a 10 year span and compared those numbers between patients who had received a kidney from an older donor versus patients receiving kidneys from younger donors.

Not surprisingly, kidney failure was higher in patients with older kidney donors (33.3 versus 21.6 percent). However, interestingly enough the rate of patient death was the same for both groups of patients. Through this new study, Hopkins researchers were able to statistically prove that individuals over 70 can donate a kidney, and recipients do not have to fear the possibility of an inferior organ.

While the researchers do admit it is still optimal for a younger patient to receive a younger kidney, that option is not always feasible. The average time on the kidney transplant waiting list is 10 years, and in that time there is a high risk of death. As a result, while a younger kidney may be less susceptible to failure, the risks of waiting outweigh the benefits.

Ultimately receiving kidney donations from an older individual still has the same hurdles as any other kidney donation such as finding a willing and matching donor. However, Dorry L. Segev, one of the leading researchers in the study, recommends that receiving an older kidney sooner is certainly the safer option over waiting for a younger kidney from a deceased donor.

The fact that individuals over 70 do have kidneys that are healthy enough for donation is a step towards broadening the chance that patients in waiting can find a potential match. While the researchers acknowledge their sample size of older donors was

limited, the study remains the largest of its kind, and any method of working towards finding a larger donor pool can be seen as a success towards patient care.

Mars may have contained water underneath its surface

By EDWARD SAMSON
Staff Writer

Understanding when and where liquid water existed on Mars is crucial to determining whether the Red Planet ever housed living organisms. A new study in *Nature* suggests that there was liquid water under the surface of Mars three to four billion years ago.

Satellites and Mars rovers have observed valleys and deltas on the surface of Mars. They have found clay, a combination of rock and liquid water, in the older parts of Mars' surface. These features indicate that Mars was at one time warmer and wetter and housed flowing liquid water. The timescale for these conditions are estimated by counting impact craters — the older a geological feature, the more craters it will have.

The current atmospheric conditions on Mars do not allow water to reach its liquid phase on the surface of the planet. Instead it forms ice and sublimates to water vapor. Some models suggest that early in its history, Mars had an atmosphere with higher temperatures and pressures that allowed liquid water to form clays. But these models are problematic because it is hard to explain where the warm conditions came from, and what happened to the proposed atmosphere.

This study set out to examine the clays and deter-

mine the conditions under which they were formed and to shed light on whether there was surface or subsurface liquid water in Mars' history.

The characteristics of the clay are determined by environmental conditions like temperature, pressure, water pH and the amount of water present. Another factor is whether the clay is being formed in an 'open' or 'closed' system. An 'open' system interacts with other reservoirs like the atmosphere, whereas a closed system does not. These conditions produce distinctive types, or assemblages, of clay.

The scientists examined the assemblages of clays that they could see. They knew what the clay would look like and contain if it were formed at the surface of the planet or underground, respectively. They used data from the Mars Express OMEGA spectrometer and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter CRISM spectrometer. These visible/near-infrared cameras are on satellites orbiting Mars and have accumulated thousands of images of clay on

Mars' surface.

The data indicates that there was a period of a about a billion years between Mars' Noachian and Hesperian periods, which occurred three to four billion years ago, in which clays formed under anoxic (no oxygen), high pH and high temperature conditions. These conditions characterize the subsurface of Mars rather than an open, atmospheric reaction environment.

They also found clays in the deepest surfaces, usually completely covered by lava but exposed by craters that broke through

the crust. These clays were buried too deep to have been formed by liquid water on the surface.

All of this evidence suggests that liquid water was not held on the surface by the atmosphere but instead flowed underground during the Noachian and Hesperian periods.

Another Mars rover, called Curiosity, is scheduled for launch in late 2011. One of its missions is to analyze clays in deep craters. The authors expect to use data from this mission to further test their hypothesis about the history of water on Mars.



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Researchers studied clay deposits to learn where and when liquid water was on Mars.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Taxanes made using new method

By **MELANIE HSU**
Staff Writer

A Scripps research team led by chemist Phil Baran recently synthesized the largest amount of pure taxadiene to date. Taxanes, a family of compounds that includes Taxol, one of the most important cancer drugs discovered, have been difficult to isolate in the past due to their complexity. These findings suggest the possibility of researching previously unavailable potential drugs.

Paclitaxel, commonly known as Taxol, has been used to treat ovarian, breast, lung, liver and other cancers with high degrees of success. Since its discovery in 1967, seven different research teams have designed methods to synthetically produce the drug. However, due to the complexity and inefficiency of these methods, researchers have synthesized less than 30 milligrams of Taxol.

Therefore, it is unsurprising that finding an efficient way to produce large quantities of Taxol in the laboratory is one of the most sought-after goals in organic chemistry. Accomplishing this feat would allow for the production of many other taxanes that are inaccessible from nature.

In the past, researchers attempted to synthesize Taxol by making progressively complex molecules until they reached their target. This method was inefficient and often required taking extra precautions to avoid unwanted side reactions or chemical complications. According to Baran, it was like trying to convert a Toyota Corolla into a Ferrari instead of just building a Ferrari.

In 2009, Baran's team proposed an unconventional

scheme that they could use to produce a simpler relative of Taxol, eudesmane. The team then analyzed this target and created a retrosynthesis pyramid, a diagram with the target compound at the apex and lower levels filled with molecules that could be modified to ascend to the level above them. This pyramid showed that a variety of paths could be open to chemical exploration.

There are two main phases in producing taxanes and related compounds, the cyclase and oxidase phases. During the cyclase phase, the researchers construct a chemical scaffolding that Baran likens to a Christmas tree. The ornaments are reactive oxygen molecules, and it is this oxidation phase that is the most challenging.

In a paper published in *Nature Chemistry*, Baran's group reported that their method involved just 10 steps to produce many more times of Taxol than has been previously synthesized. A conventional taxadiene synthesis, in contrast, takes 26 steps.

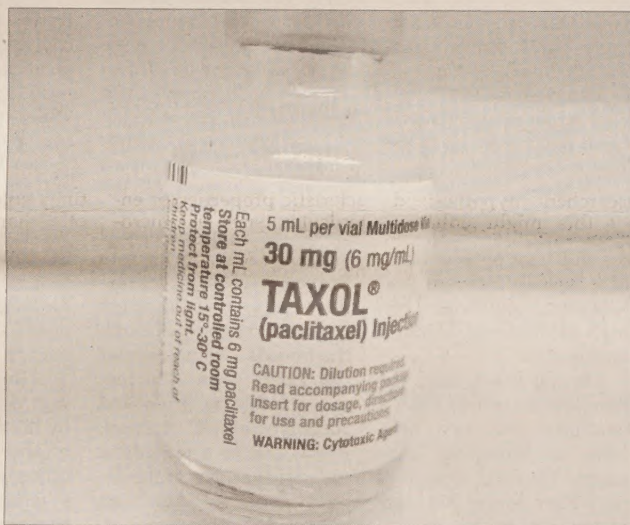
Baran's group specifically chose to synthesize a molecule called taxadiene, as this molecule can be modified to create a wide range of taxanes or varying complexity. This choice is important, as the research is not only intended for finding a better way to produce Taxol. The current

method of commercially producing Taxol involves culturing cells from its natural source, the yew tree. It is more economical than any new synthesis will probably be.

Instead, Baran and his team aim to understand the natural processes used to produce the compound, which is much more efficient than any synthesis technique to date. According to Baran, there is a huge discrepancy between the efficiency of nature and humans, and that leaves room for innovation.

Baran believes that, while developing an efficient way to synthesize Taxol, the group will gain a fundamentally improved understanding of the chemistry involved and develop more widely applicable techniques. These innovations could allow for the production of a wide variety of taxanes that are currently inaccessible for research due to the difficulty of producing sufficient quantities of the drugs.

Baran estimates that it will take years to establish the remaining steps between taxadiene and Taxol or other complex taxanes. However, if the taxane oxidation process is controlled, then new and important drugs, perhaps drugs that are better at fighting cancers than Taxol, could be discovered.



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Researchers developed a more direct method to synthesize Taxol and other taxanes.



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Rats who did both well and poorly in maze experiments showed loss of neurons in the dorsal prefrontal cortex.

Aging rats lose prefrontal cortex cells

By **FLORENCE LAU**
Your Weekend Editor

It is commonly accepted that humans, and primates in general, are a relatively unmatched species when it comes to the brain. For example, a primate's brain has a larger pre-frontal cortex — the area used for making decisions and where personality is housed, something which is thought to be specific to primates and humans.

Another characteristic of the primate brain is the loss of neurons through aging in the prefrontal cortex. That is a fact which has been known for a while. What was unknown, however, was whether such neuron loss was special to the primate prefrontal cortex alone or whether it could be seen in other species. Researchers in the Gallagher Lab of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Hopkins sought to start unraveling this problem by comparing the number of stained principal neurons and interneurons in the dorsal prefrontal cortex of both younger and older rats.

The prefrontal cortex in a rat, unlike that of a primate's, can be divided into two regions: the ventral and the dorsal region. The ventral region is associated with the hippocampus, an area of the brain that is in charge of memory and spatial navigation and other related structures. The dorsal prefrontal cortex in a rat has connections to

and from parts of the brain which concern motor, somatosensory, visual and retrosplenial functions.

In order to determine if neuron reduction occurred in the older rats, researchers stained some neurons in rats' prefrontal cortex and waited to see if they were reduced as the rats grew older. Results show that there was neuronal loss in rats, but only in the dorsal region and only the principal and immunoreactive cells were lost. No changes in neuron number were observed in the ventral prefrontal cortex at all.

Rats were also tested to see if reduction of neurons in the dorsal region of the prefrontal cortex would correspond with loss of function by comparing performance in a water maze to loss of neurons. The lab found that neuronal loss occurred in rats which performed both well and badly in the maze, leading them to conclude that neural reduction at least did not affect spatial navigation. Therefore, there may or may not be some sort of mechanism used to compensate for the loss of neurons and account for the similarity in performance in the maze.

There have been other behavioral patterns in older rats which have been observed in the past, but they may or may not be due to the loss of prefrontal neurons. One such pattern is bad performance during attentional set-shifting. Further testing is needed

to determine whether this, and other such behavioral patterns, are due to neuronal loss.

However, because the dorsal prefrontal cortex is connected to so many other parts of the brain, there have been connections found which show that the loss of neurons is associated with overall slower cognitive functioning. This may mean that losing neurons in the dorsal prefrontal cortex affects many other areas of functioning, including information processing and general cognition.

The results from this study contradict the results from a previous study, where neuronal loss in the ventral prefrontal cortex was observed, but neuronal loss in the dorsal prefrontal cortex was not. It has been suggested that either a difference in how the cortex was divided into ventral and dorsal areas, or that genetic drift due to use of two different types of rats in each respective experiment, accounts for this disparity.

Whatever the reasons, both of these result open the possibility that brains of primates may have more in common with other species than previously thought. Further testing on other aspects of the brain will be required in order to determine whether similarities extend beyond neuronal loss, but the results from this experience show that humans and primates might not be as special as they were originally thought to be.

Programmers have fun with small surprises for users

By **ALEX GROPPER**
For The News-Letter

The original cheat code and now the key to a quick laugh, the Konami Code, is a common means to see a surprise on a website. Pressing "left right left right up down up down B A" on many websites will often lead to a surprise. On Facebook this used to create a variety of circles on screen and on MailChimp, a popular newsletter service, this yields a large ape appearing on screen. The Konami Code is just one of the many ways to find a joke hidden on the web or in a program. But what was once the programmer's

hidden signature or witty surprise has often become a means for websites and companies to be more fun. Despite their new legal identity as people [Citizen's United v. FEC], most people still consider corporations the same lifeless legal entities of yesteryear, but with a witty joke and a hidden message corporations humanize themselves. Google's "Don't be evil" motto and its penchant for amusing Easter eggs (hidden surprises) helped Google transform itself from a mere search company into the verb 'to google.'

Google's jokes have included searching direc-

tions (walking) from the USA to China (or any nation across the Pacific) will yield instructions to Kayak from the West Coast to Hawaii, then to Japan, after which you will find yourself Jet skiing from Japan to China. April Fools' Day jokes have included pig latin, the Muppet's "Bork bork bork" and Star Trek's "Klingon" as possible languages in which users can search. Google's calculator will also tell you the "Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything" from Douglas Adams' Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Google Earth has a miniature flight simulator built with-

in it that can be accessed by searching for the famed "Area 51," holding ctrl and pressing "a" (then pressing "g" to fly); which more recently can be accessed directly. Another Google product, YouTube, has a hidden game of "Snake" in it which can be accessed while watching a video and holding the up and down arrow keys (to effec-

tively replace your watching cat video-time wasting with video game-time wasting).

Previously, these Easter eggs were often a programmer's signature or stylistic flair but more in more they have become ways for companies to seem to have greater 'personality.' Siri, Apple's new personal assistant offers up a variety of amusing responses: "I need to hide a body?" provides you with a list to search for reservoirs, metal foundries, mines, dumps and swamps. Tell Siri you love her and she'll say "I'm sure you say that to all your Apple products."

How are many of these 'Easter Eggs' found? Often the original coder will let it slip to the public that "something" might be hidden at a certain location, or a user will go searching for an Easter egg if they know that a program (or its maker) often inserts Easter eggs. Of course, there is always the chance that an unaware user simply stumbles upon an Easter egg in normal use of a program.

It's worth noting that not all programming humor is hidden. Facebook has the rather elaborate but fun "Pirate" language option and TV shows like *Lost* make clear use of 'hidden' numbers. From a programmer's trick to a humanizing tool, the hidden gems that are Easter eggs always cause a brief smile or chuckle when you least expect it.

This Week in Science History

— **Nov. 14, 2007:** The utility company Con Edison, in New York City, shuts down the last direct-current electrical distribution system in the United States.

— **Nov. 15, 1988:** Buran, the Soviet Union's first space shuttle, is launched unmanned and completes two orbits before an automated landing at Tyuratam. Funding was cut in 1992 and the project was cancelled in 1993.

— **Nov. 16, 1938:** Albert Hoffman, a Swiss Chemist, is the first to synthesize LSD at the Sandoz Laboratory in Basel, Switzerland. He also is the first to ingest LSD and determine its safety thresholds in 1943.

— **Nov. 17, 1797:** Eli Terry was issued the first patent for a clock in the United States. His equation clock had two minute hands that signalled the actual time and the apparent time, the latter based on the position of the sun.

— **Nov. 18, 1967:** The first push-button telephones were put into commercial use.

— **Nov. 19, 1967:** Zarya, the first module of the International Space Station, is launched from Kazakhstan aboard a Russian Proton rocket.



COURTESY OF WWW.FIDGETWITH.COM

If you find yourself bored with a video on Youtube, try playing a game of snake on it.

SPORTS

With winter chills, Blue Jay nation heats up

By RYAN KAHN and MIKE KANEN
Staff Writers

Men's Basketball
Hopkins men's basketball opened their season Tuesday evening at Goucher in historic fashion, supplying Head coach Bill Nelson — in his 26th year at the helm of the program — with his 400th win. The early season accomplishment may be just what the Blue Jays need to build confidence after a disappointing 7-18 record in 2010-2011 — their third straight losing season.

In Game One of the annual Pride of Maryland tournament, the Jays got big contributions from sophomore point guard Dan Corbett, who netted a career-high 17 points, including four three-pointers in the second half, and senior forward and co-captain Tim McCarty, who racked up nine points and ten rebounds in the 54-49 win.

The Blue Jays return 12 players from last year's youthful squad, and with another year of experience under their belts, Hopkins hopes this is their year to breakout in the Centennial Conference.

Corbett, the team's leader in assists and steals a season ago, and McCarty, a Capitol One Academic all-American honoree in 2010-2011, will look to keep up their hot starts while fellow senior forward Danny Gergen, a native of Austin, TX hopes to crash the boards alongside McCarty.

Other notable returners that should make a difference this season include junior guards Adam Spengler and Mike Rhoads, sophomore guard Jaraad Rogers, sophomore forward Connor McIntyre, sophomore center Aleksandar Nikolic, and freshmen Omar Randall, Luke Chambers, Jimmy Hammer, George Bugrinovic and Joey Hajj. Aside from their Centennial Conference action, the Blue Jays will head to Danville, KY over winter break

to compete in the Centre College Holiday Classic against Cabrini and Centre/Berry (GA).

Women's Basketball
After losing two seniors, one being all-American forward Lyndsay Burton, there is no better way to bounce back than to boast an impres-



COURTESY OF RYAN ZAKSZESKI
Women's basketball, who won Wednesday, had 22 wins in 2010.

sive incoming freshman class stocked with talent. Head coach Nancy Funk has brought in five freshmen to contribute to a 22-6 team last year.

The Blue Jays are on the rise after competing in the Centennial Conference Championship game last year and making it to the second round of the NCAA tournament as an at-large bid. Now, guards Jessica Brown (Haddon Township, NJ), Stacy Fairey (Charleston, SC), and Stephanie Binder (Scarsdale, NY) and forwards Haley Bush (Manhattan Beach, CA), and Ciara McCullagh (New Hyde Park, NY) will look to contribute to the experienced Jays.

The Blue Jays will return first team all-Centennial senior guard Chantel Mattiola and classmates and fellow senior guards Stephanie Fong and Kat Fox. In addition, junior forward Alex Vassila and sophomore guard Fatu Conteh combined for nearly 400 points last season and are expected to surpass that mark this season.

Hopkins opened their season at Goldfarb Gym on Wednesday evening against York College,

and West Virginia, Hopkins wrestling proved last season that the Blue Jays are on the rise. The Jays return a plethora of young talent and are poised to make a run in the Centennial Conference, returning five wrestlers who placed in the top three at conferences a season ago.

The Jays also garnered national attention last season when they sent juniors Reid Mosquera (197) and Paul Marcello (141) to the NCAA tournament, and their return guided Hopkins to a preseason ranking of 30th in the country by the NWCA, the program's first national ranking in history.

Other notable returners include sophomores Ray Yagloski (125) and Matt Fusaro (157) as well as junior Adam Stevens (125) who all placed in last season's Centennial playoffs.

To be the best, the team will need to beat the best, and this season is already shaping up to be exciting. Hopkins has already faced off against nationally-ranked powers Ithaca (4th), York (10th), and Elizabethtown (27th), with Messiah (29th) soon to come.

Fencing
After coming off strong seasons in their respective fields, both the men's and women's fencing teams will look to have another successful season. Sophomore sabre Katherine Simeon made a name for herself last season, placing 15th at the Mid-Atlantic Regional as a freshman.

Now a sophomore, Simeon will look to build on her success and pave the way for the Blue Jays. Fellow sabres senior Mary Vitale placed 20th and sophomore Kathleen Rand also had an impressive outing at Regionals last season, placing 25th, but the Sabre is not the only event returning strong talent.

The foil returns sophomore Jackie Heath and senior Marion Trumbull, who placed 18th and 22nd, respectively, at Regionals last year.

Junior Komal Kumar and senior Lauren Chinn

will look to dominate Epee this year after finishing 23rd and 32nd last season.

From Philadelphia, PA to Waltham, MA, the team will scour the Northeast to play some of nation's top competition.

Despite losing top fencers Max Wieder and Nick Krywopusk to graduation, the men's fencing team will return a pair of intriguing foils in sophomore Evan Stafford and junior Ben Wasser, who finished 25th and 33rd, respectively, at Regionals in 2010-2011. The men's team will travel to Durham, NC in February to compete in the Duke Invitational and the US Weapon Squad Championship in New York, NY.

Swimming
On the heels of an eighth and ninth-place finish by Hopkins' women's and men's swimming squads at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship this past March, both Blue Jay teams look primed to continue their winning ways this season. Early on, the women's team has swam to a 3-0 record with wins over Franklin and Marshall, Loyola and St. Francis, while the men's side has wins over Franklin and Marshall and Loyola.

The Lady Jays, who won the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championship earlier this year, return eight NCAA qualifiers and five all-Americans, including 2010-2011 BMCC swimmer of year sophomore Sarah Rinsma, and the 200 Medley Relay team of senior Elizabeth Rogers, and sophomores Cristina Cusumano, Alex Ladd and Taylor Kitayama.

Hopkins has already earned two conference swimmer of the week honors this year by way of junior Kristin Ferriero and Kitayama, and hopes run high for National Championship run.

On the men's side, the Blue Jays return 10 NCAA qualifiers and two first-team all-American relay teams. Hopkins welcomes back their young 200 relay of sophomores Joe Acquaviva and Anthony Lordi and juniors Carter Gisriel and Tyler Woods.

The 400 relay team comes back in one piece as well with Acquaviva, Woods, senior Tim Nam and junior Nick Schmidt. Like the women, the Jays will face a difficult schedule that includes trips to Maryland and Navy, but National Championship hopes are within reach.

Penn St. seniors lost in midst of controversy

By NICOLE PASSMORE
Staff Writer

Senior day does not usually define an athlete's collegiate career. In fact, many times the game is irrelevant; by the time the day of honor occurs, play-off chances have been solidified or extinguished, winning and losing records have been established, and the tone of the season has been set.

Senior day is more about reflection, about looking back on the hours of hard work, practice and dedication. It is about applauding four years of accomplishments with family, friends and teammates. Rarely is it ever the turning point of a career or the season.

For the football players at Penn State, however, senior day was both.

It took me multiple attempts to compose this article, as I was torn whether or not to discuss the Penn State controversy. Why discuss collegiate athletics' darkest hour when there is so much athletic success at Hopkins that can be focused on?

I choose to write about Penn State because every athlete, every scholar and truly every person understands the innate human desire to be appreciated. It is why we have graduations, why we give awards and why we celebrate senior days. To have all of the blood, sweat and tears of an activity be honored, even just for a moment, is something everyone can cherish.

This past Saturday, when the names of the Nittany Lion seniors were called out from the tunnel and the players ran out into Beaver Stadium, a million different thoughts must have been rushing through their heads. On their senior day, tears were flowing, but not due to pride and accomplishment. Instead, it was due to a tragedy, a scandal that overnight destroyed one of America's largest and strongest football programs.

Penn State played Nebraska in their senior day game, battling back from a 17-0 first half deficit to come within three points of a win. The tilt ended in a 17-14 defeat for the Nittany Lions.

Prior to the game, the Nebraska starters came out onto the field and embraced the Nittany Lion players, huddling all together at the 50-yard line for a prayer circle. It was one of the most poignant moments I have seen in sports, and the most respect and acknowledgement the Penn State seniors received all game.

It brought the focus back to where it should have been the whole time: on the players, especially the men who put forth the time and effort to success-

fully complete for three, four, or five years in a nationally ranked Division I football program.

The discussions on the academic qualifications, the bribes and the money in Division I football can be put aside for another column and another day.

The Penn State scandal is far beyond any corruption formerly experienced in collegiate athletics, and the damage to the program is significantly worse. Recruits are reneging on verbal and written commitments, donors are taking back money and the whole coaching staff is on track to be wiped out and replaced.

The seniors who aimed to leave behind a legacy had, in one quick moment, their entire collegiate athletic experience ruined by the actions of somebody else. No senior accepted bribes or cars, or was at fault for a recruiting violation. No senior jeopardized the program with their actions. The horrific actions that occurred were not their fault. Plain and simple.

And while all the coaches involved with the incident went into hiding for Saturday's game, the seniors led their team out onto the field for one final home game.

Every college athlete thinks of senior day as a conclusion of a chapter, an indicator of the beginning of the end of their athletics career. But for the seniors of Penn State, it was the beginning. The end of this incident is far away in the future, with the football program and the university prepared to face ramifications long after the eventual conclusion of the legalities and media parade.

After the game, there was no talk of senior day by the media as the hordes of the press clamored to interview coaches and talk Paterno, Sandusky and McQueary. No senior was mentioned after their senior day loss.

It should have been about the seniors or, at least, the players. The seniors exited quietly; their departure from the field overshadowed by a matter so big it has not just engulfed Happy Valley but America as well.

I hope that in May, when graduation season commences and the ruckus has quieted down, Penn State honors their football seniors appropriately. Seniors, when your day comes, reflect and embrace for a moment the calm and celebration surrounding you. It may not be the defining moment of your career, but, as the players at Penn State can tell you, that may be a very fortunate thing.

Wrestling opens at home with loss to E-Town

By CLAYTON RISCHÉ
Sports Editor

The Hopkins Wrestling squad has come off a tough weekend after facing three losses on the road. JHU traveled to participate in the Wrestling for a Cure Duals in Harrisburg, PA where the Blue Jays saw some great opposing teams on Saturday.

Their first opponent was American International. The match ended 24-16 in the final, which ended up being Hopkins closest score of the day. 17th-ranked York came in next, beating the Blue Jays by a score of 27-13. Closing out the weekend's matches against Hopkins was the 4th-ranked Ithaca Bombers. This match ended 33-6 in favor of the Bombers.

It was a rough set of matches for the Blue Jays, who moved on to face off

against another opponent during the week. Elizabethtown College paid Hopkins a visit this

the rest of the season without looking back.

Despite the loss, there were some impressive performances. Freshman Paul Bewak defeated an opponent who was ranked ninth in the 125-pound weight class. He was followed by his teammate sophomore Ray Yagloski's 13-9 win. Yagloski's match was fast paced and ended up getting pretty exciting before a solid finish.

Elizabethtown took the next two wins before sophomore Matt Fusaro won the fifth match to take the lead back. The Blue Jays of E-town took the remaining matches in what proved to be some explosive performances by their athletes. Pins in the 184 and 197 pound weight classes shut the door on Hopkins before the end of the match.

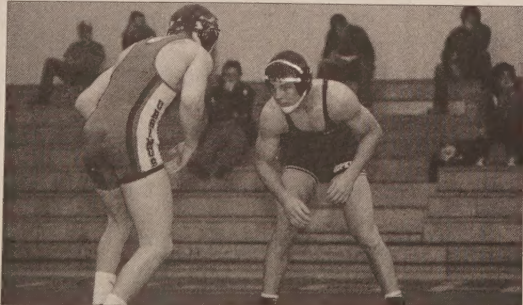
JHU did not have a wrestler participate in the heavyweight 285-pound class, forfeiting the victory

to E-town's wrestler.

The Hopkins wrestlers have all the necessary talent to win matches this season, and it pays to notice that their opponents so far this season have been either ranked or from high division schools (Maryland and West Virginia, for example). While they are currently 1-7 on the season, the singular victory comes from a match against their singular conference opponent (F&M) so far this year.

With any luck, the Blue Jays will steal a few more victories in the coming weeks before they make big moves in conference. The team isn't 100 percent healthy at this point, either, so a better indication of what the squad is capable of will become more visible as the season develops.

Hopkins returns to action this weekend. The team travels to Oneonta, NY, where they will be matching up in the Red Dragon Open. The beginning of the season will likely differ greatly from the second half, so keep your eyes on the Jays and see how the season turns out.



FILE PHOTO
Junior Paul Marcello looks to head back to the NCAA tournament.



COURTESY OF TICKIFIEDS.COM
Even at Happy Valley, the Penn State seniors were nearly forgotten.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
HANNAH ECKSTEINBy ERICK SUN
Staff Writer

On a Hopkins women's cross country team with four freshmen among the top seven runners, first year runner Hannah Eckstein has stood out this season for her tremendous work on the course. With a sixth place finish at the NCAA Mid East Regional championships, Eckstein was voted as the JHU News-Letter's Athlete of the Week.

Along with her sixth place finish, sophomore Holly Clarke took eighth place, freshman Ashley Murphy took 10th place, and junior Liz Provost, sophomore Lara Shegoski, freshman Lindsey Sanborn and freshman Frances Loeb got top 50 finishes.

They helped the Blue Jays grab 78 points at the meet which was good for an overall first place finish. The win also gave nationally ranked #10 Hopkins a berth in the NCAA National Championships.

For Eckstein, the race began like many others as she quickly took her place amongst the top ten runners within the first mile, alongside fellow Blue Jay Holly Clarke. Both Hopkins runners continued their strong performances throughout the race to earn their respective sixth and eighth place finishes.

Eckstein's top ten placing was her fourth of the year and the sixth time she has been the top finisher for Hopkins.

From the time the Middletown, NJ native stepped on the Home-

wood campus, she has made a nearly seamless transition to the college game.

In just her first start of

the season at the Baltimore Metro Invitational, Eckstein finished third to open up her college running career. Following that meet, the freshman went on to finish seventh at the Dickinson Invitational, eighth in the Centennial Conference Championships and finally her most recent finish last weekend gave Eckstein her fourth top ten finish of the season.

While Eckstein has had a great first year, she knows her fall season is

still not done. This weekend she will join her fellow Hopkins runners at the National Championships in Oshkosh, WI.

Hopkins has finished in seventh place the past two seasons, however, this year the team hopes their new additions will push them over the edge.

While it will be difficult for Blue Jay fans to make it out to the Midwest to catch the cross country team in action, you should be sure to catch up with the results here at *The News-Letter*, where you can find a recap of the event after Thanksgiving break!

VITAL
STATISTICS

Name: Hannah Eckstein
Year: Freshman
Major: Undecided
Position: Running back
Hometown: Middletown, New Jersey
High School: Red Bank Catholic



COURTESY OF CLAYTON RISCHÉ
Eckstein finished in sixth-place to lead the Lady Jays to Nationals.

X-Country
runs past
Regionals
with ease

X-COUNTRY, FROM B12
in the chase pack, heading junior Liv Provost, sophomore Lara Shegoski and freshman Lindsay Sanborn, all of whom were in the top 35 of the race from the start.

Going into the second mile, all of the Lady Jays in the top 45 maintained their positions, with Provost, Shegoski and Sanborn steadily gaining on the lead pack, all while racing against a number of all-American runners. All three would finish in the top 35.

Eckstein and Clarke placed sixth and eighth, with times of 22:43 and 22:46, respectively, while Murphy picked up the pace in the last half-mile to cap a magnificent personal effort (23:13) and finish in the top ten.

Coach Bobby Van Allen would again give his Jays some well-deserved praise. "I am so pleased with how this season has gone," he said. "We are the youngest we've ever been with just two returners in our top seven from last year's squad with four freshmen."

"They handled the pressure well and ran a very strong race. This team is only going to get better and we're very optimistic about our best race to come at the NCAA Championships."

With the win, the women's team clinched an automatic bid to Nationals in Oshkosh, WI where they will meet up with the men this Saturday.

Football enters postseason perfect

Blue Jays fly to first undefeated regular season in school history

FOOTBALL, FROM B12

took back control of the game, but not for long. On the opening play after the punt, senior quarterback Tomlin was hit as he threw, and, McDaniel sophomore defensive back Sean Lajoie caught the free ball and raced 12 yards into the end zone, 14-7 Green Terror.

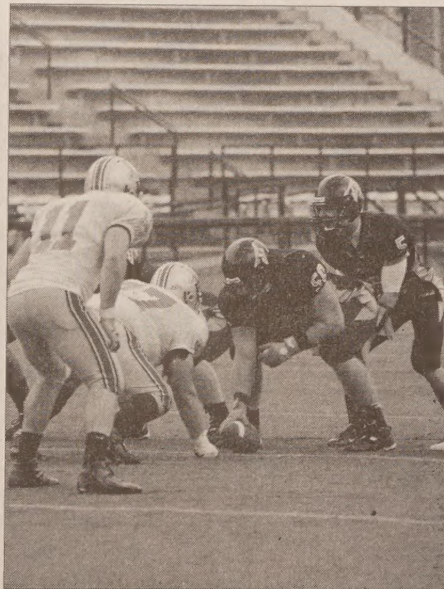
On the following drive, Hopkins took control of the clock. The Blue Jays put together a 12 play, 80-yard drive capped by a 19-yard touchdown

run by senior running back Nick Fazio. However, the game's lead continued to bounce back and forth.

Late in the second quarter, the Green Terror scored after a four-yard touchdown run from freshman quarterback Nick Valori, but Hopkins refused to trail at the half. With time running out in the second quarter, the Blue Jays put together a picture perfect two-minute drill that resulted in a 28-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Sam Wernick. Tomlin was 5-5 with 70 yards on the drive that tied the score at 21.

The Blue Jays took the lead for good half way into the third quarter. The go-ahead drive took just under two minutes and

covered 89 yards. Tomlin connected with freshman running back Matt Berry to finish the drive on a 66-yard touchdown pass, 28-



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hopkins will play St. John Fisher at noon this Saturday.

21 Blue Jays.

McDaniel was not able to score a TD for the rest of the third quarter, but they did manage to reduce the deficit to four after a 30-yard field goal from senior kicker Jake Nichols. Hopkins had two more opportunities to increase the lead but were unable to take advantage after a pair of turnovers in the red zone — one by way of interception and the other from a fumble.

However, it was the Blue Jays' defensive squad who stepped up in the end and were able to hold McDaniel to a quick three-and-out with 4:23 remaining on the clock. Hopkins was able to run out the clock to secure the victory.

The win put the Blue Jays at 10-0 on the season,

9-0 in the Centennial Conference, and marked their 15th consecutive victory, dating back to last season. Tomlin had a huge day, going 35-47 for 484 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions.

His 484 yards were the second most in his illustrious career as well as the second highest in school history. Simultaneously, Tomlin became the first player in school and Centennial Conference history to total over 10,000 career passing yards (10,257).

Sophomore Dan Wodicka and Wernick both topped 100-yards receiving with 159 and 110, respectively. Wernick also wrote his way into the school's record book on Saturday, becoming just the second wide receiver in school history to top 3,000 career

receiving yards (3,023). However, Wernick was injured during the game and will not suit up during the NCAA tournament.

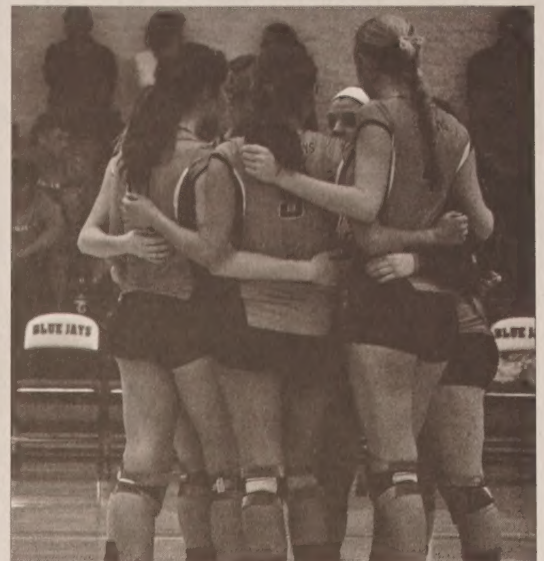
On the other side of the ball, junior linebacker Taylor Maciow and senior defensive back Michael Milano lead the defense with nine tackles each.

This Saturday, the 10th ranked Hopkins football team will host St. John Fisher, an at-large bid, in the first round of the 2011 NCAA Division III football playoffs.

The game will mark the first time in school history that Blue Jay football will host an NCAA tournament game. Game time is set for 12 PM. The winner will face either Delaware Valley or Norwich in the Sweet 16.

By ALANNA OLKEN
Staff Writer

Volleyball season finishes 25-5



FILE PHOTO
Hopkins will welcome back 16 players from its 2011 championship team.

On Friday Nov. 11th, Hopkins volleyball played in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's history. While the Lady Jays lost to Randolph-Macon, 3-1, to end their season, Hopkins finished with an impressive final record of 25-5. Their winning percentage of .833 was a program record.

The set scores in the opening round of the tournament were 16-25, 18-25, 26-24, 21-25. The Yellow Jackets led early on in the first set, 6-2, but the Blue Jays battled back — with a service ace from freshman mid-hitter Ellen Rogers, which tied the set at eight.

The Blue Jays eventually gained a 17-13 lead, but Randolph-Macon regained control of the set, winning 25-16.

In the second set, the Yellow Jackets gained momentum early on again with a 7-3 advantage. The Blue Jays pulled to within two points behind a kill from freshman mid-hitter Kim Bronson and a block from classmate and outside hitter Megan Schwarz.

The Jays then gained three points in a row, followed by three-straight from the Yellow Jackets, who zipped ahead 19-12. Randolph-Macon then used a four-point run to earn its first set point. Hopkins, determined to come back, got two straight points to cut the Yellow Jacket lead to 24-18, but JHU could not overcome the deficit.

With their backs against the wall, the Jays turned it around in the opening

of the third set, gaining a lead with three-straight points. Randolph-Macon chipped away at the lead until they had a 4-3 advantage, but the Jays answered with five-straight points and regained their lead 11-9.

After the teams traded points, the Yellow Jackets were in the lead 21-18, and, with a kill from Yellow Jacket junior outside hitter Jessica Sears, Randolph-Macon gained their first match point. Staring at their season's end, Hopkins battled back with four-straight points to win the third set, 26-24, on a kill from freshman outside hitter Katie Schwarz, twin sister of Megan.

With one set to the Yellow Jackets' two, the Blue Jays gained an early lead in the fourth set before Randolph-Macon evened the score at six. The two teams continued to trade side outs until the Yellow Jackets took a 23-21 lead before ending Hopkins' season, 25-21.

Senior outside hitter Melissa Cole lead the team in her NCAA tournament debut with 26

digs. Cole finished her four-year career with 1,023 digs, placing her ninth in the record books for career digs. Cole also had four kills to bring her career total to 759.

Freshman libero Anne Cohen had 24 digs. Cohen now holds the JHU freshman record for digs per set. Freshman outside hitter Meagan Donohoe led the Blue Jays with 13 kills and had a season hitting percentage of .321.

Given Cole and Donohoe's impressive performance, it was no surprise they earned first team all-Mid-Atlantic Region honors, first team all-Centennial Conference honors and honorable mention all-American honors.

Cole was a two-time All-Centennial Conference honoree and Donohoe was the first freshman in school history to be named to the Centennial Conference's first team.

With just one graduating senior in Cole, the Lady Jays may be poised for another 20-win season in 2012 when they welcome back 16 pieces from their historic 2011 campaign.

Lady Jays prepare for
Amherst, Messiah

W. SOCCER, FROM B12

stinginess, allowing just two meaningless goals to two potent offenses in 180 minutes of play.

The defense is led by senior Jessica Hnatiuk, Schulte, and their platoon of goal keepers in senior Kristen Redsun and junior Meredith Maguire, each of which started a game this past weekend. The defense has allowed nine goals through the first 21 games of the season, including 14 shutouts.

Up next for the Lady Jays is another weekend of exciting NCAA tournament soccer as they travel to Grantham, PA and Messiah College to play a Sweet 16 round game against Amherst College. If Hopkins can topple the eighth-ranked and undefeated Lord Jeffs, number-one Messiah, the 2010 national runners-up, could be waiting in the wings for a third straight Elite Eight rematch, a game which the Falcons have won the previous two years.

Though it is tempting to

look forward to a match-up with Messiah which would take center stage in the DIII women's soccer world, the Jays know they need to focus on Amherst first and foremost.

"Of course playing Messiah is in the back of our minds, but our team's focus is solely on Saturday's game against Amherst," Suter said.

Goodman shares Suter's sentiments, acknowledging that Amherst is a very worthy opponent.

"Amherst is also undefeated," the Van Nuys, CA native said. "I know we are up to giving them their first loss."

Heading into the Sweet 16, the Jays and Lord Jeffs have a combined 40-0-0 record.

If anything can be said about this Lady Blue Jay soccer team this year, it's that they have proven that they can do just about anything they set their minds to. Be sure to follow these Jays as they continue their magical run in hopes of a National Championship.



EDDIE WANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Junior Taylor Schulte got the Jays on the board in the first round.

SPORTS

Did You Know?

Hopkins football will host the first round of the NCAA tournament this Saturday at noon for the first time in program history.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY
M. Basketball vs. St. Mary's, 8 PM
SATURDAY
Football vs. St. John Fisher, NOON
W. Basketball vs. Hood, 1 p.m.
TUESDAY
W. Basketball vs. Haverford, 6 PM
M. Basketball vs. Haverford, 8 PM

Basketball season starts with pair of JHU wins



COURTESY OF RYAN ZAKSKESKI

Junior forward Alex Vassilla makes one of her 10 points again York on Wednesday night. Vassilla also added 13 rebounds for a double-double. For full winter sports coverage, please see Page B10.

Undefeated Blue Jays to host NCAA tourney

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

Going into Saturday's game against McDaniel, Hopkins football knew how close they were to history. Despite securing the Centennial Conference title and an automatic bid into the playoffs in the weeks prior, the first undefeated season in school history was still on the line.

"Preparing for the game came down to focus," senior cornerback and co-captain Sam Eagleson said. "It is hard not to think about the upcoming playoffs and what seed we will be, but we dug deep and focused on the McDaniel game knowing that it would result in a better playoff position."

Blue Jay pride was also on the line in a rivalry that dates all the way back to

1894. "We knew it would be a hard fought game," Eagleson continued. "They are our rivals and, to them, beating us would make their season."

Hopkins got off to a slow start and McDaniel was able to capitalize on an early Hopkins fumble, the first of six Blue Jay turnovers on the day. After the Green Terror recovered the fumble, sophomore Joe Rollins found the end zone on a one yard run, taking an early 7-0 lead.

Hopkins' resiliency was tested on Saturday, and the Jays managed to rack up three separate comebacks. The first comeback came late in the first quarter when junior running back Jonathan Rigaud scored on a 28-yard run.

After a quick McDaniel three-and-out, Hopkins

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE B11

Blue Jay squads ready for Nationals

By KEVIN JOYCE
Staff Writer

Both the Hopkins men and women's cross country teams ran spectacularly at their respective NCAA Mid-east Regional competitions on Saturday with the women coming in first-place for the fourth straight year. Behind a sixth-place finish from freshman Hannah Eckstein, *The News-Let-*

son broke away from the chase pack, passing runners left and right, many of which had been ahead of him during the Centennial Conference Championships. He finished 15th overall in the race.

Hahn maintained his position, pacing the rest of the Hopkins team and beating Elizabethtown's third man to help the Jays' cause. He led a group of five Hopkins runners who finished within 19 seconds of each other to all but seal the fourth place spot. It was the best NCAA Mid-east Regional finish in program history.

Robinson clocked in a terrific time at 26:02, with Hahn and freshman Austin Stecklair posting nearly identical marks with 26:34 and 26:37, respectively.

Coach Bobby Van Allen heaped praise on his men. "I have never been more proud of our men's team than I am today," he said. "They showed heart and fought even

when they were down. They were poised, and our senior leadership of Brandon Hahn, Brett Schwartz, and Andrew Yen really came through in motivating the team throughout our championship season.

"This team really showed everyone how strong of a team we are in one of the top regions in the entire country."

The women's team also fared well, racing into first place at Regionals on the feet of Eckstein, who paced all Hopkins runners. It was the women's fourth straight first place finish at Regionals.

The race began auspiciously for Hopkins runners, as Eckstein and sophomore Holly Clarke quickly took position at the head of the front group, which was about ten runners, leading all 58 teams from the get-go.

Freshman Ashley Murphy trailed close behind

SEE X-COUNTRY, PAGE B11

W. soccer heads to fourth straight Sweet 16

By JEFF LYNCH
Staff Writer

After claiming their seventh consecutive Centennial Conference Championship, the Hopkins women's soccer team played host to the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III tournament this past weekend. The Blue Jays welcomed Cabrini College, Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), and Springfield College to the friendly confines of historic Homewood Field for three "win-or-go-home" soccer games. The first match-up of the weekend pinned the Blue Jays against the Cavaliers of ECSU, a game in which the outcome resembled that of the majority of JHU's matches this season: utter dominance.

The Lady Jays started slowly, held scoreless until the 42nd minute on a beautiful shot by junior defender Taylor Schulte. From then on, it was all Hopkins. Not even two minutes later, senior midfielder and captain Erica Suter—the Lady Jays' all-time leader in goals, assists, and points—netted what would eventu-

ally be the game winner on a header from senior forward Paulina Goodman's second assist of the game.

"Paulina [Goodman]'s corner kick was a driven ball, so all I had to do was flick it towards the net," Suter said of her team-leading 19th goal. "I just made sure I was in good enough position to get in front of my defender and win the ball."

The Lady Jays then sprinted out to a 6-1 lead, including a span when sophomore midfielder Pamela Vranis scored two goals in four minutes, to coast to their 20th win of the season. The six scores marked the most goals ever notched by Hopkins in an NCAA tournament game.

In the match, Hopkins tallied 41 shots to just four

by the Cavaliers who had zero in the first half. If not for superb play by ECSU senior keeper Theresa

ranked Hopkins who went on to a 4-1 win, extending their undefeated season to 21-0.



EDDIE WANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Senior defender Pam Kopfensteiner has helped the post 14 shutouts.

Pagnozzi, the game might not have been nearly as close.

Unable to afford the opportunity to rest on their laurels, the Lady Jays were back on the Homewood Field turf less than 24 hours later for their second round match-up against the Pride of Springfield. A day earlier, Springfield had defeated Cabrini, 2-0.

The Pride, ranked 24th in the nation, was again little challenge for fourth-

Setting records has become fashionable this fall for the Lady Jays, as Goodman netted the first ever hat trick by a women's soccer player in Hopkins' NCAA tournament.

Goodman received major help from freshman star

forward Hannah Kronick, who chipped in a goal to go along with two gorgeous assists.

"Springfield really let us play up the middle, and we saw it and capitalized," Goodman said. "We just have so many people up front who can score and shake it up that they couldn't stop us."

Not to be outdone, the Blue Jays' defense continued their incredible

SEE W. SOCCER, PAGE B11



COURTESY OF CLAYTON RISCHIE

Hopkins' men got off to a fast start on their way to receiving a bid to Nationals.

ter's Athlete of the Week, the Lady Jays once again qualified for Nationals.

The men's squad finished fourth in the meet and was selected as an at-large bid to Nationals, the first time the Blue Jays have advanced since 1977.

For the men, the race began with an arduous 450-meter uphill climb. All of the Blue Jays started out in the top 50 of the 317 runners, with sophomore Max Robinson placing himself in the large lead pack, and grad student Brandon Hahn right on his heels. The rest of the Jays stayed together in the top 45 going into the midway point of the race.

At the three-mile mark, the majority of Hopkins runners were neck and neck with Elizabethtown College's top five men, as they positioned themselves nicely in the back woods going into some difficult rises. After conquering the hills at the four-mile point, Robin-

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Blue Jays take flight: Winter Sports

It won't be easy to live up to the success JHU's fall sports have had, but Ryan Kahn reveals why the Blue Jays' winter sports have what it takes to take home a few more titles. **Page B10**

Athlete of the Week: Hannah Eckstein

Freshman Hannah Eckstein led all Lady Jays runners at the Mid-east Regional cross country meet this past weekend with a sixth-place finish. JHU won its fourth straight regional. **Page B11**

Volleyball: Historic Run Ends

A week after winning their first ever Centennial Conference championship, Hopkins volleyball's season came to a close in the first round of the NCAA tournament. **Page B10**

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BLUE JAY SCOREBOARD			
HOPKINS	RESULT:	GUEST	
FOOTBALL	28-24	AT MCDANIEL	
W. SOCCER	6-1	VS. ECSU	
	4-1	VS. SPRINGFIELD	
VOLLEYBALL	1-3	VS. RANDOLPH-MACON	
MEN'S BASKETBALL	53-49	AT GOUCHER	
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		VS. YORK	
WRESTLING	16-24	AT AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL	
	13-27	AT YORK	
	6-33	AT ITHACA	
	9-31	VS. ELIZABETHTOWN	